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25 October 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

, No. 2594

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CCT'S COMMUNIQUE CALLS FOR SOLUTION TO CENTRAL AMERICAN CRISIS

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 3 Sep 82 p 2

[Text] The Central American Workers Confederation (CCT), which has its headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, states that "it is urgent to find a political, democratic and grass roots solution to the Central American crisis," while repeating that it is opposed to any armed solution.

Regarding its position, the CCT has issued a communique that says:

"The recent events that have occurred in our region are bringing us slowly and dramatically to the holocaust.

"The provocative attitude assumed by the Marxist-Leninist commanders in Nicaragua, determined to cause a total war in Central America as a way of justifying their great inability to resolve their domestic problems, caused basically by their decision to implement a totalitarian society subordinated to the imperialist interests of the USSR, is seeking at heart to impose the logic of war, within the logic of the cold war.

"This logic of the absurd is seeking through armed confrontation among brother nations to internationalize even more the Central American crisis, so that finally it will be the USSR and the United States who over the blood of Central Americans will impose one solution or another.

"The CCT repeats once more its vigorous opposition to any armed solution to the present crisis and insists on the urgent need to find a political, democratic and grass roots solution, which is the majority feeling of the people and the Central American workers, we who aspire to great economic, social and political changes, but through the path of freedom, social justice and the active participation of an organized people.

"A solution through armed struggle can mean postponing these aspirations indefinitely and the likely elimination of all democratic rights and freedoms. War is not won by the people; on the contrary, the people are the chief victim of war.

"The CCT, just as was resolved by the 14th Central American Conference of Workers, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 27, 28 and 29 May of this year,

"urges the carrying out of a conference for peace, democracy and social justice in Central America, with the principal goal of creating favorable conditions for the immediate unity of action of all democratic forces with the object of going ahead with a firm and intense offensive to guarantee this political, democratic and grass roots solution that our people want and preventing an armed solution, which will only aid those who serve imperialist interests.

9545

CSO: 3248/1

COTTON GROWERS CALL FOR GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 6 Sep 82 p 2

[Text] Because of the situation of violence and the limited financial resources available to maintain the cultivation and production of cotton in Central America the delegates from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras showed great concern on presenting official reports on the industry's current situation in this industry, during the work sessions of the First Plenary Meeting of the Central American Federation of Cotton Growers (FECAPA).

The speakers pointed out that if the governments of the countries participating in the meeting do not take immediate measures to reduce the crisis in the cotton growing industry, the growers will have to meet once again to consider very seriously alternatives for engaging in other activities, if political and social circumstances allow this. They pointed out that this would not be a solution to the negative outlook that is taking shape, because the most serious of consequences would be massive unemployment among workers from the countryside who, driven by their most basic needs for survival, would also find themselves obliged to emigrate to the cities, when they would not find any chance for work.

In the case of El Salvador, they said, unemployment has been one of the factors that have affected the situation that many Salvadorans, on not finding possibilities for work in a normal way, have had to accept as an alternative joining extremist groups that only bring misery and pain to the Salvadoran family. They stated that cotton growing is one of the jobs that pays the most for a day's work in the countryside.

It was explained that here for work and day laboring, administrative operations and supervision, transportation, surveillance and other functions, approximately 1,000 colons are paid per manzana cultivated, which, multiplied by 112,189 manzanas that were not planted in the 1980-82 period, gives a total of 112,200,000 colons that were not paid. "This has not brought the social benefits that come with employment and the tranquility and corresponding peace that the Salvadoran peasant family needs," said Engineer Ernesto Kury, on reading the report about the cotton growing situation in El Salvador. He emphasized, "Infer then what awaits the country with the results of the 1982-83 harvest, which reached only 60,000 manzanas cultivated of the 100,000 that had been estimated as a goal."

In the report concerning El Salvador, it says that "if the present government provides the economic support that will allow the cotton grower to resolve his financial situation, and to pay his obligations in a planned and rational way, the negative consequences of the country's economic as well as social structure, which are unpredictable because of their mushrooming effects could be reduced."

9545

CSO: 3248/1

BY-ELECTION IN GRANT'S TOWN STIRS INTENSE CAMPAIGNING

PLP, FNM Candidates

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text] **THE NATIONAL** General Council of the Progressive Liberal Party, in a surprise move, has chosen business executive Bradley Roberts 38, as its candidate in the upcoming by-election in Grant's Town.

He will be up against the official opposition Free National Movement's Jim Wood, who contested that seat in the June 10 general elections.

The Grant's Town seat fell vacant on July 10 when then Member of Parliament-elect Shadrach Morris, died. Mr Morris won the seat 1,182-687 over Wood in what has been termed a PLP strong-hold area.

And, Parliamentary Registrar Edwin Davis announced late yesterday that the Governor-General has issued a Writ of Election for the Grant's Town constituency. The Writ was dated September 3.

The Representation of the People Act states that a by-election must be held between 35 and 45 days after a Writ of Election has been issued. That means that the by-election must be held between October 8-18.

Roberts, who has been defeated twice in the Shirlea

constituency, was chosen for Grant's Town over the popular Charles Major Jr whom many thought would have taken over when Mr Morris retired.

Major, leader of the Grant's Town Youth Association, has been lobbying for the party's nomination for some time. It is understood that he was endorsed by a large number of constituents.

Roberts also beat out attorney Godfrey W 'Pro' Pinder, Dr Bernard J Nottage and defeated Delaporte candidate Philip D Pinder. Mr Morris' wife, Ironica, was also in the race.

PLP secretary general Senator Berlin Pratt confirmed that the party received no less than ten applications for the nomination.

A release from the party stated that it was "pleased and proud" to have Roberts contest the seat.

"Bradley Roberts is well-known throughout the Bahamas for his business and civic involvement," the PLP statement said. "He is managing director of Bethell Robertson and Company Limited and a director of many enterprises including Sunshine Holdings Limited, Golden Isles Dairy, Grand Bahama Oil and the International House of Music."

PLP chairman Andrew 'Dud' Maynard noted that of all the applications received the party was "pleased" to present to Grant's Town "another dynamic young Bahamian with a talent for public service."

Roberts is married to the former Hartlyn M Mackey. They have four children.

Asked earlier about the possibility of him being nominated, Roberts said: "I am available to be of service to my party in any area they see fit."

It is likely that the by-election will be a straight two-way fight between the PLP and the FNM. Socialist Vanguard Party chairman Dr John McCartney confirmed that his party will not be contesting the by-election.

"It's too close to the general elections," Dr McCartney said. "We feel that if the Government had had more time to carry out some policies there would have been more of a debating point in the campaign. But anytime a by-election is held in the future, we certainly will be there. We will continue to intensify our programmes."

The Workers Party is not working the area and no independent candidate has come forward yet.



Bradley Roberts chosen over several

Polling Date

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text]

THE GRANT'S Town by-election will be held on October 5, one day before the House of Assembly meets for the second time since the general elections.

And, the ruling Progressive Liberal Party kicks off its campaign tonight with a mass rally at Windsor Park when the party's candidate, businessman Bradley Roberts, 38, will be introduced.

The party's leadership tonight will also bring supporters up to date on the

five election court petitions that have been filed by PLP voters on behalf of candidates who lost in the June 10 elections.

Businessman James Wood, the FNM's candidate in the June 10 elections, will again represent the official Opposition in the Grant's Town contest.

The Grant's Town constituency fell vacant on July 10 when then Member of Parliament-elect Shadrach Morris died. Mr Morris won the seat 1,184-689 over Wood in

what has been termed a PLP strong-hold area.

To date, the contest looks like a two-way fight between the PLP and the FNM. The socialist Vanguard Party and the Workers Party will not field a candidate. No independents have indicated an intention to contest the seat.

For the June 10 elections, there were 2,265 registered voters in Grant's Town. Of that number 1,886 or 83.3 per cent cast their ballots. An official at the Parliamentary Registrar's office said persons already registered would not have to register again.

Warning to PLP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Sep 82 p 1

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Text] **WHILE CALLING** for enforcement of the rent control laws, St Michael's MP George Mackey warned that unless something is done to relieve the suffering of the people in the Grant's Town area, the Progressive Liberal Party will be "shipped out" of power.

"What this country needs is not another party, it needs a rededicated PLP, a better PLP, a PLP that remembers where it came from and the people who brought it where it is," Mr Mackey said.

Speaking in support of the PLP's Grant's Town candidate Bradley Roberts, Mr Mackey hit out against the area's unemployment, poor housing, and the exorbitant rents being exacted by "merciless landlords on our poor people who can ill afford it."

"No light, no water, no toilet even," Mr Mackey said. "You find that in Grant's Town, you find that in St Agnes, you find that in St Michael's. We must bear in mind it was the suffering of the Bahamian people in this very area that gave birth to the Progressive Liberal Party. I think history will condemn us if we do not do something for Grant's Town."

It was Mr Mackey's belief though, that Mr Roberts shares the concern that the PLP holds for the people of south New Providence. He was happy to see that the Government now has in action the Grant's Town Urban Development programme.

"I believe the PLP's work will not have been done until we transform this Grant's Town area and make it comparable to other areas," Mr Mackey said. "We would like to see a decent community of black people; some in business and some who have roots deep in this area remain here."

"We would like for them to have the finer things of life. We would like to see the new homes and apartment buildings built here in Grant's Town. We would like to see all those old shacks that are rented, done away with. We would like to see the rent control laws enforced so that the people who are forced to rent get value for the money they pay for the places they rent."

The PLP, he said, has been remiss in the past in that "we have not really looked after our own. They say the mills of faith grind slowly but they grind mightily fine. And a people's patience can run out."

"How long can we in this party expect the grass roots to

continue to elect us to power only to be cursed after the election by people who have benefitted from their efforts and call us fools. I believe this time will be the last time for that kind of foolishness."

He warned the PLP to see to it that the party and the Government look after the people of the Grant's Town area as it is those people who continually support the PLP and not the people in Yamacraw, Cable Beach, Blair Estates and South Beach.

He urged Roberts to use the seat "which you will surely win" to look out for the people of Grant's Town and "bring this ship (PLP) back on the right course and that course is to do all we can for the grass roots."

"I love the PLP and I don't want to see this party ever fall from power, but I can see from the suffering that exists over in this area that if we don't buck up pretty soon your (the people's) patience will run out and we (PLP) will be shipped out."

"That is not going to be good for the country because those who are standing in the wings to receive it are those who we know will take us back into Egypt. None of us want to go there," said Mackey.

Labor Leader's Nomination

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Sep 82 pp 1, 8

[Article by Gladstone Thurston]

[Excerpt] **LABOUR LEADER** Sir Randol Fawkes emerged from political exile this morning and nominated to contest the Grant's Town constituency against the Progressive Liberal

Party's Bradley Roberts and the Free National Movement's James Wood.

Both Roberts and Wood, who have been vigorously working the Grant's Town

area, said they were confident of victory in the October 5 by-election. Sir Randol, who was the last to nominate before the deadline of 12 noon, said somebody has to talk sense to the Bahamian people.

"Of course you may say that the Government could do this better. The Government can't do it effectively because nobody has any confidence in the Government because in every way they have betrayed their sacred trust.

"So, today we have a crisis in confidence which can only be corrected by a new face in Parliament. So, I say come walk in dignity, come walk in beauty, come walk in harmony with the Labour Party," said Sir Randol.

The issue, he said, is still human rights "because one

that the finances of the nation would be streamlined "so that whenever you have to fix a road on Bay Street costing \$40 million, the people in the city will bear the cost of the construction, not the common people Over The Hill, who are now being taxed \$20 for ancient wells in their yards so that the rich and mighty may live and play."

One of the first things that will receive his attention, he said, will be employment. He promised to sponsor a job festival whereby employers and employees would meet each other and serve each other.

can't live in dignity and work in beauty if you have no job. You can't feed your family, you can't stop the leak in the roof and you can't put an extra slice of bread in the mouth of the baby."

Sir Randol recalled that in 1956 when he (under the Labour Party banner) and PLP members were elected to the House of Assembly, there was a paragraph in the platform on local government.

It was proposed that the city of Nassau be incorporated so

PLP Rift Rumor

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

CHARLIE Major Jr, one of the front runners for the PLP's Grant's Town nomination, last night denied being a part of a rift in the party over the choice of Bradley B Roberts to contest the seat next month.

PLP supporters, angered that the party chose someone from outside the constituency to contest the by-election, were reportedly asking Major, who is a son of the soil, to run as an independent.

Many thought that Major, who worked closely with the former MP the late Shadrach

Morris, would have been given the party's nod. He was by-passed.

"The PLP has made a decision," Major told last night's rally. "I am a PLP and I stand by and I will support the decision of the PLP. No matter what you may have thought prior to September 3 (when Roberts was chosen), the die has been cast, the decision has been made. We will abide by and support the decision."

He promised to work tirelessly to win Grant's Town for the PLP.

CSO: 3298/003

PINDLING CLAIMS GOVERNMENT IS BRINGING INFLATION UNDER CONTROL

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

THE RATE of inflation in the Bahamas is the third lowest in the western hemisphere after the United States and Canada, Prime Minister Lynden Pindling told party supporters last night.

Mr Pindling was speaking at a campaign rally in support of the candidacy of Bradley Roberts when a young man in the audience asked about the cost of living.

"The cost of living is always rising, my boy," he replied, pointing out that it has risen less in the Bahamas than in most any other place in this hemisphere. "All the other areas were way over and above the Bahamas."

At the moment, the rate of inflation in the Bahamas, he said, is falling "and gradually we are bringing inflation under control. But then again inflation is something that is caused by circumstances beyond our control. It is caused by the cost of money and goods overseas."

He said that although Bahamians may complain that the banks here are still charging too high an interest rate on

money they lend, which may be true, up to three months ago, whereas while the banks in Nassau were charging interest of up to 12½ and 13 percent, banks in New York, in Miami, in Chicago, in London, in Toronto were charging 18, 19 and 20 per cent.

"That was because of a conscious decision taken by the Bahamas government that it would not allow the rate of interest to rise here like they rose overseas because we knew that that would be too great a burden for the people to bear," Mr Pindling said.

But there were consequences to pay for that, he said, pointing out that if a man could get 18 per cent on his money in New York, he is not going to bring it here if he is going to make less profit than he can make on it by leaving it in a bank in New York.

"Unfortunately we are a small country with only 250,000 people," he said. "We don't produce much for export. We are not a world power controlling anything. Therefore we have got to handle things in our small way

in our small corner as best we could and we are still doing better than most other people."

"In the western hemisphere," Mr Pindling began, when someone from the audience said that things were happening in Jamaica. "There's nobody outside the United States and Canada doing better than the Bahamas."

"It ain't nothing happening in Jamaica in the last two years. You have not been there. You are reading the press reports. Nothing has happened in Jamaica for the last two years, as a matter of fact for the same reason that I explained."

"The man is not going to take his money from New York and put it in Jamaica and earn less on it in Jamaica than he could earn in New York. It is not a question of whether he wants to or not. He just has sense."

"So, he has to wait until he thinks that the time is right. And the same time it's going to be right for Jamaica is the same time it's going to be right for the Bahamas. He has to pass here first."

CSO: 3298/003

FNM LEADER ISAACS SCORES DIVISIVE REMARKS BY PLP LEADERS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Sep 82 p 1

[Text]

YOUTH, Sports and Community Affairs Minister Kendal Nottage came under fire today for trying to stir up hatred against his fellow Bahamians.

Free National Movement leader Kendal G L Isaacs said today that Prime Minister Lynden Pindling and his colleagues "have apparently decided to split the country with a permanent wedge" between those who support the PLP and those who exercise their democratic right to support the FNM.

On the Southern Recreation Grounds last Thursday, he said, Minister Nottage "tried to stir up hatred against his fellow Bahamians" by branding the FNM as "a dangerous organisation" and accusing the FNM of "dividing the people".

"In the same breath he (Nottage) revealed what is really dangerous in Bahamian politics today and that is the spiteful, dictatorial and arrogant attitude of the PLP," Mr Isaacs said.

This attitude, Mr Isaacs said, was exposed by none other than Mr Pindling himself soon after the general elections (June 10) when he publicly threatened to intimidate middle class voters, Freeport voters and senior public servants.

Mr Pindling, he said, was followed by Labour and Home Affairs Minister Clement Maynard who threatened, intimidated and accused the Royal Bahamas Police Force members of 'disloyalty.'

"Mr Maynard left no doubt that he was talking about police men and women whom he thought supported the FNM in the elections," Mr Isaacs said.

He recalled Mr Nottage in a public meeting talking about "PLP jobs, PLP scholarships and PLP housing."

"My colleagues and I take the most serious view of this bold and pernicious attack on our democratic society," Mr Isaacs said. "We call on the

public, including PLP supporters, to repudiate this evil which is being injected into Bahamian affairs."

Even a school child, he said, should know that the money which is entrusted for management to the Government of the day belongs to all the Bahamian people regardless of political allegiances.

"It is a shame that a Minister, and particularly this Minister who is in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports, has the gall to insult the intelligence of the Bahamian people with this kind of jingoism," Mr Isaacs said.

"We warn Mr Pindling and his colleagues that to persist with this recklessness will destroy the peace and tranquility of this country," Mr Isaacs said. "Bahamians will not settle for second rate status in their own country. Neither will they sit still and endure victimisation at the hands of their Government."

CSO: 3298/003

PRIME MINISTER PRICE ON FINANCIAL, POLITICAL ISSUES

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 26 Sep 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] There is to be no devaluation of the Belize dollar, and the local money will remain at the current exchange rate of two dollars Belize to one American.

The assurance about the stability of the Belize dollar came from the Prime Minister, Mr George Price, who was speaking at one of his rare press conferences to members of the local and foreign press in Belmopan last Monday. Mr. Price agreed that there were some financial stress in the local economy, but things were not as bad as they seemed, he said. He estimated that it would take another two years for Belize to make a recovery, but he said, he could not say exactly.

Mr. Price tried to make the point that because Belize is independent, she is better off today than she would have been had she not been independent. "Because we are independent and are members of the big organizations--the Commonwealth, the Nonaligned Movement, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund--we are now benefitting from all this international help available to developing countries, including the United States of America's programme for the Caribbean," the Prime Minister said.

The P.M. was asked how long, in his opinion, it would take for Belize to come out of her financial straits. He answered: "If we listen to some of the experts at Toronto--the World Bankers--it will take a few more years. It may not be that long. Perhaps the next two years, but it's anybody's guess. It's so hard to look into the future today and tell exactly what is going to happen."

Asked what message he had for those people who were holding government vouchers for several months and can't get them cashed, the Prime Minister [said] that he would ask them to hold on until his government received reimbursements of moneys which had been advanced for those foreign backed programmes such as the Water and Sewerage and other road projects.

"As you know, as well as anybody, we have a budget and we are working on it. But as we go from month to month sometimes the expenses exceed and that is why there is some problem. But it is not as bad as it seems. We have been meeting some of them and reducing them and they (the holders of vouchers) understand.

Asked if there were any new initiatives between Guatemala and Belize to come to grips with the problem between the two countries, Mr. Price replied: "Nothing formal yet, but only yesterday I repeated our policy of extending the hand of friendship and cooperation in trying to solve the problem."

Questioned about the recent border incident involving four Guatemalan army officers the Prime Minister was asked whether he regarded the men as spies. His reply: "They could have been spies because they came in civilian clothes and they were looking around. Anybody could be a spy in the sense that they are looking around to see what they can find out. But surely if they were spies they should have done it in a more clever way."

The Prime Minister was asked about his development strategy for Belize and the plan of development. His response was: "A simple plan. First we are going to produce as much food as we can for our table. Then we produce commodities which we can sell on the export market. To do that we will need more infrastructure. We will have to improve some of the roads. We will have to put more capital in some of our statutory boards, and above all, there is the human element--the hope of devotion and harder work to accomplish all these things."

The Prime Minister was pressed for specifics. Apart from sugar and citrus, what plans did he have for promoting other exports. Mr. Price replied: "We have an economic plan that calls for the processing of some of our industries, and the establishment of light industrialization."

Asked about the government's plan for tourism, Mr. Price said: "The plans for tourism? That we should build a hotel which is going on right now in Belmopan and we have welcomed proposals for bigger hotels, but again the cash flow has come just at this time. There are concessions. I think only last week we gave a concession...where they'll be bringing in duty free equipment... So we are encouraging tourism and reaching the point where we need more hotel accommodations."

CSO: 3298/1117

GOVERNMENT STATEMENT EXPLAINS LABOR POLICY

San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Sep 82 p 7

[Text] The government of the republic has deemed it advisable to establish an ongoing dialogue with the labor union organizations which make up the Democratic Workers Front. The purpose of this dialogue is to find solutions which will benefit the sectors of the populace which are most affected by the deep economic crisis existing in the country.

The executive power, in a genuine demonstration of the importance that it is giving the dialogue with the workers, appointed the vice president and the minister of labor and social security to immediately become acquainted with the petitions formulated by the Democratic Workers Front.

Never before in the labor history of the country have such high-ranking officials sat down to speak directly with representatives of the workers' union organizations.

A few days after receiving the petitions, the government initiated the dialogue with the Democratic Workers Front. An in-depth analysis was made of the petitions presented. At the same time the country's economic situation was discussed, along with the financial limitations to authorizing wage increases greater than those already determined.

The government, aware of the difficult situation confronting the workers, proposed a general increase of 300 colons a month, as a complement to the 1,000 colons already set. This proposal was not accepted by the union delegation. As an immediate alternative, the government suggested the overall sum that would be set aside to fund this increase could be distributed in such a way that the workers with lower incomes would receive greater increases in relation to those with average and high incomes. This proposal was also rejected. In the midst of all out negotiations the union leadership declared a work stoppage and incited to strike. The work stoppage had no support.

In another effort to enable the salaried workers to cope with the price increases in an automatic and periodic way, the government agreed to the creation of a Flexible Wage Scale and to that end established a Basic Basket based on wages.

Having concluded this phase, the parties agreed to name two delegates each to edit the agreement proposals. At this point the union delegates insisted on introducing new demands, adding to some and diluting others. Under these circumstances the government prepared a draft agreement proposal and once again called for discussions. At that moment the union leadership rejected the document outright.

For the sake of not breaking off communications, a new document was prepared and sent to the Democratic Front for their comments. To date no reply has been received. The only concrete reply is the call for new demonstrations of strength and the collective work walk-out announced for 10 September.

Below we are informing the citizens of Costa Rica of the petitions made by the Democratic Front and the solutions to them proposed by the government:

1. Private Sector Wage Increase of 50 Percent Above the Average Wage of 2,889 Colons.

The government of the republic by Decree No 13762, in effect since 15 August, 1982, established increases in the private sector of 42 percent for low wages; 33 percent for average wages; and 27 percent for high wages. This specification was made in accordance with the consumer price index.

2. Public Sector Wage Increase of 50 Percent Above the Average Wage of 6,250 Colons.

By Resolution No C322-82 of the Civil Service, in effect as of 1 July 1982, public sector wages were increased by 1,000 colons a month. Also, by means of Resolution No C395-82, an additional increase of 300 colons per month was made for after 1 September 1982. A monthly increase higher than 1,300 colons would be impossible due to problems of a fiscal nature.

3. Salary Increase Retroactive to June and Payable by July 1982.

It was reported that in the public sector the 1,000 colons per month increase decreed on 9 July is retroactive to 1 July.

4. Modification of Income Tax Law.

It was reported that the government is amenable to proposing an increase in the ceiling on the exempt amount, and that if it would prove beneficial to the workers, the substitution of the income tax with a wage tax could be studied in order to seek out greater tax fairness and a better record of tax collection.

5. To Place at the Base of the Public Sector Wage Scale the 1,500 Colons of Extra Wages Resulting From Earlier Negotiations.

Due to budgetary impossibility, this proposal was not accepted.

6. To Define the Wage Flexibility According to the Growth of the Price Index at Least Quarterly.

The government established the "Flexible Wage" which consists of a periodic wage review, every 6 months, adjusting them according to the increase in the prices of items in the Basic Wage Basket.

7. Control, Fixing and Freezing of Prices in the Basic Basket.

The proposal for fixing and strict control of prices of the items in the Basic Basket was approved, but not their freezing, as this is not possible during an inflationary situation such as the one in which Costa Rica currently exists.

8. Brand on Articles at the Manufacturer Level Attesting to Quality, Quantity and Price.

This was approved, and the mechanisms for implementing this system were designed in such a way that the products will have the price duly specified, as established by the Consumer Protection Law.

9. Equal Representation of all Sectors on the Council for Price Adjustments and Rejection of the Last Decree Issued by the Ministry of Finance and Business.

It was determined that there is a possibility of establishing a better mechanism than now exists for the representation of the different sectors on the Consumer Price Adjustment Council, and that the government will accept the suggestion of the workers to form it with representation from the state, the workers, the employers and community organizations. Also conceded was the need to improve the application of the Consumer Protection Law and the Democratic Front committed itself to presenting a bill to reform articles 5, 17 and 18 of said law. The Reform Bill is pending.

10. No Dismissal of Public Administration Workers for Budgetary Reasons.

The government accepted this proposition for 1982.

11. Strict Control of the Foreign Exchange Market (Reform of Article 93, 94 and 100 of the Charter for the Central Bank of Costa Rica).

This point is already resolved, since by virtue of Law No 6789, in effect as of 10 August 1982, Articles 22, 23, 33, 93, 94 and 100 of the Charter of the Central Bank of Costa Rica were changed to reorganize the foreign exchange market.

12. Formation and Initiation of a Program of Day Care Centers.

It was reported that the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, in coordination with the Main Office for Social Development and Family Allowances, has a Day Care Program already operating, and is seeking to increase their coverage. This expansion of day care centers is intended to serve the workers.

13. Formation and Initiation of a Program for Dining Halls in Public Institutions and Private Enterprises.

The government accepted the proposal for public institutions, and it was recommended that the Ministry of Labor and Social Security study the feasibility that the same program could be extended to private enterprises. The facilities and equipment for the dining halls will be contributed by the employer and the administration would be in charge of the cooperative associations formed by the workers themselves.

14. Setting 2 Percent of the National Budget for a Program of Public Housing and Tax Exemptions for Construction Materials Designated for Housing of a Social Nature.

It was reported that the government included an item of 100 million colons on the special budget which was submitted to the legislative assembly, for an emergency program of lots and services controlled by INVU (National Institute of Housing and City Planning). Also, the government is conducting negotiations with friendly democratic countries and is studying several alternatives to refinancing INVU with the intention of providing it with the resources necessary to push forward a large program of public housing, as per the priorities set by the Government Council.

15. A Ten Percent Assessment on Extra Earnings from Traditional Exporters.

It was reported that the government has a study underway on revising the export tax, with the goal of obtaining healthy resources for the Treasury in a way that will not harm the enterprises, which are in effect demonstrating that they have not benefitted from the exchange differential.

16. Freezing of Tariffs on Water, Electricity and Transportation in the Public Sectors.

It was agreed that tariffs on water, electrical lighting and collective transportation will be added to the costs in the basic wage Basket, so that the "Flexible Wage" mechanism will also operate with regard to them, and it was so defined in the respective decree by the Executive Power.

17. Confirmation of the Right of Dialogue and Negotiation Based on the Democratic Tradition of the Country.

The government has made the determination to establish a special commission for the study of wage and labor conditions, made by the public administration which will act on continual petitioning for dialogue with the union organizations of the workers from the entire public sector. It is believed that this is the most democratic system for regulating and standardizing labor relations with the workers.

As an additional point, and at the request of the delegation of educators, the government was agreeable to carrying out, as per the procedures

established in the Civil Service System, a re-evaluation of the leadership of the educational employees from the Ministry of Public Education.

The government of the republic has the obligation to explain to the country its position openly, and to have frank dialogue with all sectors of our society. It, therefore, surprises us that a democratic organization is using harsh and even disrespectful language to refer to the government and its actions.

Likewise, it is worrisome that in order to obtain its goals, it takes recourse in the use of battle methods, like the suspension of work, marches and the announcement of an indefinite strike.

In this sense, we make a respectful plea to the Costa Rican workers to think about how negative and counterproductive this type of action is at such a difficult time for the country.

We also suggest that the Democratic Front appoint its most highly placed leaders to continue the negotiations with the government, so that its delegation will have full authority to negotiate and a clear awareness of the gravity of the situation that confronts Costa Rica.

San Jose, 9 September 1982

By/Commission of the Executive Power

Mr Guillermo Sandoval A.
Minister of Labor and Social Security.

9730

CSO: 3248/33

VARIOUS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY STANDS SCORED

International Economic Situation

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 8 Sep 82 p 6

[Commentary by Juan Marrero]

[Text] Whereas the international economic situation is described as extremely critical, to the point where ministers, bankers, and executives of multinational firms warn that a "worldwide economic holocaust" could occur, the Reagan administration is less pessimistic. Its secretary of the Treasury, Donald T. Regan, speaking at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, has termed the situation merely serious, and, at the same time, amazingly!-- we must use an exclamation mark--he has said that "Reagan's economic policies have opened up the road for his own country's recovery and that of the rest of the world." Moreover, "The stage has been set for a strong recovery that is becoming more probable and more imminent every day that passes." Not only that: Mr Regan, brimming with optimism, said, "A lasting worldwide economic recovery, with significant reductions in the area of unemployment, is now within reach." You do not have to be an economist to think that everything Mr Regan has said is a complete lie. In the matter of telling lies, the Yankee imperialists have no rival in the world. They calmly and deliberately lie every minute. They are brutal and cynical like few others in the world. What recovery can they talk about when in that same United States the economic situation is devastating because of the Reagan administration's policy, where over 3 million people have lost their jobs and many others have fallen, for the first time in their life, below the poverty level? How can they think of "significant reductions in the area of unemployment" when only a few days ago North American experts reported that in August unemployment had reached a record level, 10 percent this time, over 10 million people out of work? Whom at the Toronto meeting is Mr Regan going to try to mislead into believing that a reduction of the figure of over 30 million unemployed in the developed capitalist countries is "more imminent every day that passes"? The Organization for Cooperation and Development, which is composed of the western countries, said only a few days ago that the level of unemployment will continue rising and that in 1983 it will reach a new figure: 31.5 million out of work. Moreover, in his talk at the Toronto meeting, Mr Regan said that the problems numerous underdeveloped countries are having with repaying their current external debt are due "to ambitious policies in the economic sphere" and the lack of "economic discipline." These imperialists have a precipitate, false way of looking at things. It is due to other causes, Mr Regan: unequal

trade; protectionism; inflation, which is exported; the rapacity and voracity of the multinationals; the exploitation to which our peoples are subject. So cut out the lies and the chicanery.

Relations with Guatemala

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 14 Sep 82 p 6

[Commentary by Orestes Valera]

[Text] During President Ronald Reagan's electoral campaign, commitments between the United States and Guatemala started to be established.

The secret meetings began when Guatemalan reactionaries--through a society called "Friends of the Country," comparable to the United States' fascist John Birch Society--contributed millions of dollars to Reagan's electoral campaign, conditioning it on renewal of the sale of arms, cessation of State Department criticism, as under the Carter administration, of violations of human rights, and /the guarantee that the United States would intervene militarily in the country, if necessary, to save the regime in power./ [in boldface]

Reagan, in turn, is fulfilling the first two commitments and is prepared to fulfill the third, too.

The U.S. Government sold 9 helicopters worth a total of \$10 million to Guatemala and supplied the bloodstained Guatemalan military with over \$18 million worth of military equipment, including 100 jeeps and 50 trucks.

Moreover, the Reagan administration asked the U.S. Congress for approval of a \$.25 million budget item to finance the training of Guatemalan military personnel, according to a spokesman for the Yankee Department of State, who asserted that the present administration wanted to "assist" the military government.

At the end of August, the United States granted Guatemala a \$3 million credit and a "donation" of \$239,000 for a program of "extracurricular education."

As proof of Reagan's readiness to fulfill the third commitment, Gen Wallace Nutting, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, with its headquarters in the Canal Zone, stated, according to the 23 August NEW YORK TIMES, "Washington should have the same participation in Guatemala that it has in El Salvador."

In fulfillment of the U.S. commitments, the Yankee ambassador to Guatemala, Frederick Chapin, said recently in Washington, "There's a growing awareness that the human rights situation in Guatemala has improved."

This means the more genocide, the more Yankee aid.

According to a recent report by the humanitarian organization Pax Christi, between 23 March and 16 May the Rios Montt regime destroyed 39 villages and exterminated their entire populations. During the same period, over 2,500 people were murdered. According to a report from Guatemalan revolutionary organizations, between 7 and

28 July, 377 Indian peasants were murdered in the departments of El Quiche, Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz, Chichicastenango, Huehuetenango, and Chimaltenango.

On 9 September, the Guatemalan Peasants Committee of the High Plateau charged that the regime headed by Rios Montt, who believes himself "chosen by God to govern the country," carried out another slaughter of peasants in the community of Santa Anita, in Chimaltenango, murdering 100 people, including children, women, and elderly people.

The genocidal Rios Montt's regime is carrying out the counterinsurgency plan of exterminating the Indian population and practicing a "scorched earth" policy to terrorize the peasants, who are flocking to join the revolutionary organizations that are fighting with weapons in hand in order to change, once and for all, their uncertain destiny.

The Guatemalan case confirms that wherever there is genocide, the "helpful" hand of Yankee imperialism will reach out to give military aid to the savage murderers. The genocidal regimes in Israel, South Africa, El Salvador, and Chile are striking examples.

Using Honduras

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 15 Sep 82 p 6

[Commentary by Orestes Valera]

[Text] Honduras, one of the poorest and hungriest countries on this continent, is being used by the United States as the main base for aggression against the Sandinist Revolution and the national liberation struggle of the heroic Salvadoran people.

Since 27 January of this year, when he assumed the presidency of the country, Roberto Suazo Cordova has rushed into the arms of the Reagan administration.

The Honduran Government had scarcely taken office when it set about placing state enterprises in the hands of voracious private business interest and the multinationals. At the same time, the bloodstained head of the armed forces, Gen Gustavo Alvarez Martinez, has been the coordinator and instigator of the sending of Honduran troops into El Salvador to massacre FMLN [Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation] revolutionaries. He protects and conceals the counterrevolutionary activities of the former Somoza guardsmen in the 17 camps established along the Nicaraguan border, and he removes from command positions the progressive officers who oppose their country's serving as a bellicose lackey of Washington's policy for Central America.

In addition to that, the Honduran regime is increasing repression and terrorism carried out against the vast majority of people who oppose that sinister role. It has been charged that the number of "disappearances" has reached over 100 and that numerous members of labor, students', and peasants' organizations, as well as many clergymen, accused of being "subversives," along with professional people, journalists, and teachers are in prison. Recently, the secretary general of the Communist Party of Honduras was threatened with death, and a few days later one of his assistants, Calixto Guerrero, turned up murdered. That is the state of current repression in Honduras.

Washington encourages, directs, and provides military and economic support for that state of affairs in Honduras, and it is particularly interested in unleashing a war against Nicaragua.

U.S. military aid to Honduras has risen considerably since 1980 (\$3.6 million), the 1983 level expected to exceed \$15 million. This does not include the presence of over 90 Green Beret advisers with the Army, modernization of several airports, or the loans of military equipment that will begin to be repaid in 1985.

The growing military cooperation between the United States and Honduras, more specifically the modernization of the airports at San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Puerto Lempira, and La Palmerola in Comayagua, prompted U.S. Senator Clairborne Pell to say, "That action sends a signal to the world and especially to Central America and the Caribbean that the United States is really preparing for greater interference, including direct military intervention."

Gen Gustavo Alvarez, author of the repression and in favor of aggressive action, said recently that Honduras does not oppose possible military intervention by the United States in Central America.

Launched on this bellicose adventure at Reagan's urging, burdened with hunger and misery, with a per capita income below \$500 a year, a 64 percent unemployment rate, a soaring external debt, and fascist terror spread by the punitive bands from the Public Security Force, the Honduran people are beginning to see clearly that Reagan and the most warlike, aggressive elements within the government and the military are putting Honduras in a deep hole.

9085

CSO: 3248/37

U.S. POLICIES IN EL SALVADOR CONDEMNED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Aug 82 p 2

[Commentary by Javier Rodriguez: "Slippery Terrain"]

[Text] On several occasions the North American president, Ronald Reagan, has tried to calm down the natural uneasiness produced in the heart of his country by the militaristic adventures of an administration that proclaims the use of force as the policy to be followed in international relations.

To the neighbor in the White House, the often expressed fear of the North American citizens of seeing their country involved in armed conflicts in far away lands and with neither future nor glory is caused only by the "Vietnam syndrome."

The U.S. president believes that the memory of that defeat is what motivates the conduct of millions and millions of people who, in the different states of the Union, declare themselves in favor of harmony among people, against the armaments race, for the abolition of nuclear arms, and against North American aggression toward other countries in the world.

Evidently the justification that Reagan wields is a pure sophism. It amounts to ignoring the basis of the problem and presenting only some of its edges.

It is no secret to anybody, in any corner of the terrestrial globe, that the era of the Vietnam War was a landmark in North American history.

In the jungles and villages of Vietnam the empire saw all its powers disintegrate like a castle of cards, and with the last helicopter that fled from Saigon, it was forced to say goodbye to its plans to dominate the Indochinese Peninsula.

The American people, who were only another victim of that dirty war, do not necessarily suffer the "Vietnam syndrome" that Reagan talks about, in any case it affects most strongly those who drove the United States into that conflict and thus provoked the unforgettable setback.

What is logical and reasonable is the unwillingness of the men and women in that country to accept the possibility of being driven into a new Vietnam

because of the political blindness of its leaders. And this is precisely what provokes the just protest and the daily indignation.

At this moment, for the ordinary American, there is perhaps nothing that so much resembles the stalemate the United States suffered in Vietnam as what is happening to Ronald Reagan's government in El Salvador.

All its attempts, all the maneuvers, all the subterfuges have failed in the small Central American country through many months of joint effort by the national oligarchy, the reactionary military and Washington.

It seemed impossible to the strategists of the State Department, the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency that a guerrilla movement could resist the concentration of such a quantity of adverse military, economic and political resources, and in this way the Salvadoran experience has been a lesson of great importance to the world.

What, in this case, is the secret that made possible a feat of such importance and blew to smithereens the predictions and estimates of the strategists of international capitalism?

In the first place, its big mistake was not to understand that times do change, that the correlation of forces tips the balance to the other side and that the Salvadoran conflict has very deep social and economic roots.

It is materially impossible to erase, with tons of bombs and missiles of all types, the reality that in El Salvador 2 percent of the rural landowners own 60 percent of the arable land.

The training in the United States of whole battalions of Salvadoran soldiers so that they can learn to kill cannot obscure the terrible situation, which is that 72 percent of that Central American nation suffers malnutrition, that 3 million inhabitants have to live with less than 10 dollars a month and that infant mortality reaches 63 percent in rural areas.

The violent deaths of tens of thousands of persons at the hands of the army, the police force or the paramilitary groups, the innumerable villages destroyed in the path of the official forces, or even the refinement of tortures cannot hide the truth either, that the entire national economy is under the control of a small group of 14 families with close ties to the American multinational corporations.

And it is precisely for this reason and for many more reasons, like the absurd disregard of popular representation of the revolutionary movement, that the United States finds itself in a blind alley in El Salvador.

The recent electoral process, with the participation of only the sectors from the Right, and which concluded with--no less!--the rise to power of the leader of the death squads, did not solve anything.

The army's successive offensives, which always end with a great number of military casualties and with the guerrillas keeping control of important sectors of the country, have not served any purpose.

All these failures make the United States face precisely the option that generates apprehension among its people: a direct military intervention that would place it in the most slippery and difficult of terrains.

If logic should win in the high echelons of the North American government the road to be traveled would have to be that of negotiation with the revolutionary forces as the first step in the passage to the reconstruction of that nation and the return of all their political and social rights to those who have suffered so much.

At the time of this writing this has not happened, and President Ronald Reagan continues playing the war game in El Salvador, without realizing that the Vietnam example clearly indicates the future awaiting those who advocate the philosophy of war.

9907

CSO: 3248/7

WEST EUROPEAN FALKLANDS POLICY CRITICIZED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Aug 82 p 58

[Commentary by Jose Bodes Gomez: "Fragile Statements"]

[Text] European diplomacy, as old as it is clever, evidently endeavors to restore normalcy to the economic relations with Latin America. The Malvinas war strained those ties to their most critical point because the European Economic Community (EEC) claimed as its own the economic boycott decreed by Great Britain in the conflict with Argentina. The decision was taken amid serious disagreement among the 10 countries that make up the Western bloc, and two of them, Italy and Ireland, did not adhere completely to the measure.

In taking this step, the community members could not even imagine the consequences this would bring to their region. The Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Andean Group mobilized to support the attacked country. All the patiently pursued negotiations that up to that time had been taking place between Latin America and "The Ten" were cut short and it became uncertain whether the agreements reached would be honored in the future.

In the EEC the economic sanctions against Argentina were adopted during one of the frequent crises this group has been going through. This time they were trying to "mollify" the British government after "stabbing it in the back," as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said, unaware of its veto in the dispute about the price of farm products. These tricks and maneuvers are rather common practice at the Brussels conference table, where everyone hopes to obtain maximum benefit.

This time, however, a valuable market was at risk. The exports to Latin America are primarily made up of European manufactured products. In turn, imports supply food, raw materials and fuel for consumers on the other side of the Atlantic. That is to say, an exchange that permits the monopolies of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Great Britain and other industrialized nations to distribute their products that, because of the competition from similar products made in the United States and Japan, have no demand in areas of high technological development, and in exchange the great European businesses receive materials necessary for manufacturing their products.

"The principal characteristic of the business relations between Latin America and the EEC since the post-war period is the lack of dynamism of the community's market for Latin American exports." Thus the Secretariat for the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) summarized this balance in the document drawn up in 1981 dealing with the perspective for the region's development during the 80's.

The protectionist policies practiced by the European bloc since its inception have been an unassailable barricade; and not only for many of the basic products that Latin American countries need to export. Besides that they have prevented the incipient industrialization of these countries from gaining access to that market. It should be enough to point out that the export of manufactured goods to the EEC turns out to be five times less than the trade taking place within the region itself.

The business objectives of the West European countries were roughly outlined in the magazine PERSPECTIVA, published in Switzerland, which in 1978 published work done by the then general director of the European Communities Commission, Klaus Meyer, with an introductory note saying: "Europe needs not only to import raw materials, but also, and every day more so, to sell its manufactured products to the developing countries."

This has been and is the motto that rules the relations of the EEC with Latin America and with the rest of the underdeveloped countries. In its agreements with the group known by the acronym of ACP [Africa, Caribbean and Pacific], the promises have been on paper only and in reality they try to maintain a neocolonial status. The EEC financial aid has never reached satisfactory levels, and an example of this is that during the 15 years that the European Fund for Industrial Development has been in operation, the amount received by the 18 associated African states hardly reached \$7 million. Nonetheless, the Europeans brag of being more generous than their friends in the North Americas; whose contribution to development is even lower in relation to their economic potential.

Because of all these circumstances it is logical that relations between the community and Latin America have had their ups and downs. The demands of the countries in the region have received little attention in Brussels, and to smooth out rough spots, innumerable missions have traveled through Central and South America trying to create a more agreeable image than that of a selfish and stubborn business partner.

All those measures lost their effectiveness with the stance adopted during the conflict in the South Atlantic. The community showed its true colors by wielding the stick of economic sanctions to pressure a Latin American country and make it renounce its sovereign rights. With this, the bridge of friendship built by diplomats with so much patience came down in a few hours. Its collapse demonstrates how fragile are the declarations of cooperation when the wish to dominate enters the picture. In allying themselves with Great Britain in such a belligerent way, the European countries demonstrate that they have not yet buried their colonialistic aspirations, even if by retaining them they throw by the wayside a policy that must be founded on mutual respect between sovereign states.

ROMANIAN TRADE OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH HAVANA

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 6 Aug 82 No 32 p 35

[Article by Luis Camejo]

[Text] The headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Trade is located in an old building in the center of Bucharest. We have come here during the early morning hours of our last day in Romania.

We waited briefly in the first floor lobby, and at 9:30am, as announced, the interview with V. Dorneanu, associate director for the socialist countries management of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation, and Aurelia Sinov, counselor in charge of business relations with Cuba, commenced.

After expressing his pleasure at receiving the press that is in charge of disseminating the results of Romania's bilateral relations with other socialist countries, Dorneanu obligingly starts answering the questions asked of him.

--From the beginning I would like to stress with satisfaction that business relations between Romania and Cuba developed in a very positive fashion during the 1st few years. I appreciate the fact that Cuba has become one of Romania's important business partners, especially among the socialist countries. I also know that Romania occupies an important place in Cuba's foreign trade, last year I believe, the third or fourth place among the socialist countries. This is all the more positive if one takes into consideration the great geographic distance between our countries. This demonstrates that in spite of that, when there is good will and good conditions, relations can develop successfully.

--Of course, it was not easy to reach the present level. Competent Cuban organizations as well as our own struggled for this. But I would like to emphasize that the meetings between Comrades Fidel Castro and Nicolai Ceausescu played an important part in the development of our relations, giving them impetus and establishing the rules not only in the area of merchandise interchange but also for the general development of the collaboration.

--In relation to the previous 5-year period, trade between the two countries increased more than 5 times. Of course price increases influenced this somewhat, but principally this increase was due to the actual volume of trade.

--As a result of the practical efforts of both our ministers of foreign trade, various business agreements were reached. I would like to point out the one established on a long-term basis, 5 years, which foresees the delivery of merchandise by both parties during that period. Also, the governmental loan agreements for the construction of several businesses, 21 or 22, with the help of Romanian technology. This will contribute to the realization of the investment program planned by the Cuban Party and the Cuban Government.

--Romania exports to Cuba not only machinery, tractors, various types of vehicles and ships, but also sends consumer goods to be used directly by the population, such as canned meats, beans, vegetables, fruits, wine, champagne, frozen chickens, lard and other products such as shoes, textiles, ready-made clothing, tooth paste, soap, cosmetics, that is to say, a wide variety of products. All this has been paid with traditional Cuban products such as sugar, nickel, drinks, juices and other things.

--As one may certainly observe, Cuban merchandise is well accepted by consumers in the Romanian market. According to information received, the same thing happens to our products in Cuba.

--As a positive element in the commercial relations between Cuba and Romania I would like to mention our participation along with the participation of other socialist countries in the realization of an important business objective, the Camarioca production combine for nickel in Holguin. A document has already been signed to that effect and in the near future it will be approved at the governmental level.

I look at the tape recorder with the corner of my eye. Dorneanu, smiling, diverts the conversation to assure me that there will be plenty of tape in the cassette for new questions.

--Certainly there are other aspects I want to talk about regarding the business relations between our two countries.

--The creation of a direct sea line between Romanian and Cuban ports is being studied. This will permit better transportation of merchandise through the use of containers.

--In this 5-year term we will send some 5,000 tractors to Cuba to be used primarily in the cultivation and harvesting of the sugar cane. Already last year we sent some 1,000 and the same number this year, and this will keep on until 1985, when we will have fulfilled our agreement. Regarding the tractors, the possibility of building an assembly line in Cuba for these vehicles has been discussed. Cuban industry would assimilate it gradually and it could become a new source of exports.

--For the last few years there has been an intense interchange of experts between our countries, and their number will increase even more the moment construction starts on the aforementioned industrial objectives.

--Cuba's presence in the Bucharest International Fair made it possible for our experts to observe the revolution's accomplishments and for this reason I would like to characterize this fact as very positive.

Now Aurelia Sinov answers:

--During the negotiations the desire of both parties to make the investment period as short as possible became evident so that during the last year of the 5-year term, the respective objectives may begin to bear fruit. It is our wish that all contracts, some of which are in an advanced stage, can be completed quickly so that the projects can be completed and delivery and assembly can begin, possibly at the end of this year or the beginning of 1983.

Dorneaunu speaks again to reiterate his satisfaction at the presence of Cuban newspapermen in his offices and to take his leave, recalling the affection of the Romanian people for the Cubans, not only because of the Latin origin of their languages but, of course, because of the common goal held by the two countries: "to build socialism and create the best possible living conditions in our countries".

9907

CSO: 3010/2288

MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR HAILS GROWING COOPERATION

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 10 Sep 82 p 33

[Text] Even though Mongolia and Cuba are located very far from one another, solid friendship and growing cooperation bring them constantly closer. Specifically, so that he might talk to us about this cooperation, the newsman of BOHEMIA ECONOMICA had an interview with Comrade Gombosurenguin Dashdavaa, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Mongolia in Cuba.

"It can be said," the Mongolian ambassador began, "that cooperation between Mongolia and Cuba began on the same date that diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in 1960."

Then the ambassador recalled that on 7 December 1960 the government delegations of Mongolia and Cuba, in addition to the agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations, signed commercial and cultural cooperation accords.

"But this cooperation," the Mongolian ambassador continued, "achieved an even faster rate following the historic visits of Comrade Raul Castro Ruz in Mongolia and of Comrade Yumjaagiyn Tsendenbal in Cuba in 1972. Truly, these high-level visits initiated a new stage in relations between our two states."

Ambassador Dashdavaa, who was press attache at the Mongolian Embassy in Havana a few years ago, has not forgotten his Spanish, which he speaks with great fluency. Additionally, he professes great affection for our country.

Regarding the scientific-technical aspects included in the cooperation agreements, Ambassador Dashdavaa told us that this all began in 1972 with the signing of an agreement by the Cuban and Mongolian Governments during the visit to Cuba of the first secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the presidium of the People's Great Hural of Mongolia, Yumjaagiyn Tsendenbal.

The Mongolian ambassador noted that the cooperation involves public health, agriculture, statistics, geology, and architecture, singling out the agreements approved by the Academies of Science of both countries to implement the

"Accelerated Development Plan of Science and Technology in the Republic of Cuba up to 1990."

Regarding the level reached through bilateral cooperation and the fields that it includes, Ambassador Dashdavaa, after qualifying it as good, recalled that these fields are culture, in which area the first agreement was signed in 1960 and renewed in 1975, science, education and trade.

As regards the practical results of this cooperation, he told us smiling in a satisfied manner that it is not only bilateral but that additionally it is developing with great success within the framework of CEMA [Council for Mutual Economic Assistance]. He cited as examples the improvement of genetic studies relating to bovine cattle and sheep so as to achieve a high yield in wool and meat; the development of agriculture in the northern portion of the Gobi Desert; the exchange of experiences among our dentists; the proficiency training of Mongolian physicians in Cuba for periods of between 6 months and 2 years; and the results achieved in the past 5 years by an international geological expedition exploring for new mineral deposits with the participation of Cuban specialists in each case.

Finally, the ambassador, evaluating the cooperation between Mongolia and Cuba, stressed that "it is gratifying that a high level of friendship and cooperation has been achieved through the friendly and fraternal bonds that unite our parties, governments, and peoples and thanks to the fraternal help of the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community."

2662

CSO: 3248/49

RESULTS OF 1981-82 SCHOOL YEAR DESCRIBED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 6 Aug 82 p 57

[Text] Every year, at the end of the school term, the Ministry of Education reviews the year's work, an activity in which the minister, the associate ministers, technical and administrative officials at all levels (national, provincial and municipal), the Union of Education and Science Workers and the Central Committee's Department of Science, Culture and Educational Centers take part. On this occasion the minister of higher education was present.

At the meeting, an analysis was made of the fulfillment of the agreements reached in the Cuban Communist Party's Second Congress; progress in the plan for improving the national educational system; the formation, improvement and perfecting of the teaching staff; school organization, the development of the school's educational process; the scientific-educational work; the material base of study and other equally important and essential work in order to make progress in the quality of teaching, the complete training of the students and the achievement of superior goals in education.

Comparing this school year 1981-82 with the previous one, the results are satisfactory. Minister Jose R. Fernandez has described it as a good school year, although there are still deficiencies, difficulties, unfulfillments and lack of requirements in some subsystems and aspects.

A total of 3,254,241 students were enrolled in the various levels and types of curriculum. Enrollment in primary school decreased by approximately 58,700 pupils and this was due to a more rapid turn-over, as well as to a decrease in the population in the age group corresponding to this level. At the same time the secondary level maintained the same numbers reached in the last school year. Technical and professional education increased by 35,000 students, but we must report that the enrollment of qualified laborers is appreciably lower (68,000) compared to that of medium-level technicians (195,300).

Regarding the teaching staff, the number increased by 12,600 workers, reaching 232,633, which indicates a laudable effort to pay the required attention to the overall enrollment in the different levels.

Retention and promotion are a measure of the school year's achievements and are always the most important indices mentioned at the annual meeting. Promotion reached 93.4 percent and retention reached 95.6 percent. Broken down by levels, the percentages are the following:

	Promotion	Retention
Primary	93.4	95.6
Basic secondary	91.8	92.7
College preparatory	91	92.7
Technical & professional education	93	87.5
Elementary teachers education	97.5	91.2
School of kindergarten teachers	98.9	91
Special education	91.1	94.6
Nursery schools	93.3	90.7
Adult education	94	67

Retention of adults in school has been low, especially in secondary education, where it was 59.6 percent.

Besides the conclusions of Minister Fernandez, there was participation by other people whose opinions were mostly critical. It was said that 58 percent of the withdrawals take place in school age groups and the rest in working age groups and that methodological preparation and direct participation of the directors are essential to the existence of a good class, which is the fundamental activity of the school. Individual study by the pupils should be intensified because the difficulty of the exams so demands; there are not enough supplementary workers to take over in the event of teachers' absences from classrooms, which take place throughout the year for various reasons. Attendance and punctuality of pupils and teachers has improved but this can improve further if the school council acts and demands more. There are difficulties regarding the distribution of textbooks, in that there are too many in some places and not enough in others.

Also discussed was the old problem of attention, care and maintenance of the schools, including the sports areas, and one of the participants pointed out four ways or measures to solve this situation: better results in the productive work this year in the country schools; the need for school inspectors to fulfill their responsibility of visiting the schools during the year, since the ministry has available over 2,300 inspectors whose function is not that of filling papers, but of solving problems and obtaining the best results in the educational process.

Regarding the improvement of the teaching staff, it was reported that the intensive courses for elementary teachers were well attended during the whole year in some of the provinces (Santiago de Cuba, Matanzas and Cienfuegos), but not in others. Attendance improved by 70 percent in some provinces.

There were 7,700 withdrawals in the teachers' workshops and MINED (Ministry of Education) let it be known that conditions are ready to put into practice the new plan of studies of the higher education institutes during the 1982-83 school year.

While Minister Jose R. Hernandez gave details of MINED's yearly summary, he pointed out that Santiago de Cuba was the province with the best overall work in the country and that Villa Clara, Matanzas, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus and Pinar del Rio were also outstanding. He added that this year the first place levels have been very good, he recognized the effort made by all the factions that have something to do with education and emphasized the need to organize the effort to achieve better results.

Higher Education

With the same purpose of analyzing the recently completed school term, the minister of higher education, Fernando Vecino Alegret, met with the personnel responsible for the educational effort in that ministry. The main report on the school-education activities was given by Associate Minister Miguel Torres, emphasizing that there were 21,009 graduates during this term, a number three times higher than that of the 1975-76 term. In the regular day coursed, promotion was 84.2 percent and in the workshops 71.8 percent. This is the first graduation of the programs planned by MES (Ministry of Higher Education) since it was created in 1976. The work of the scientist-teacher groups and students doing research is increasing. The obtention of 1,226 research jobs dealing with economics is significant, as well as the development by higher education centers of 270 research problems in 41 of the 54 principal country-wide problem areas.

In his concluding words at the meeting, Minister Vecino Alegret referred to the political and ideological quality of the graduates and to their scientific-technical abilities. The professional quality is magnificent--the minister said--although we need to work towards a more practical education and the establishment of customs and abilities.

Referring to promotion, he underlined that this has improved markedly in the last few years and indicated that there should be a better use of centers of highly qualified specialists that work in production and services. In conclusion, he said, the good work being done daily, systematically, is what will allow us to keep raising and consolidating the quality of the schools' educational process.

9907

CSO: 3010/2288

MINAZ STANDARDIZATION HEAD INTERVIEWED ON INDUSTRY

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 10 Sep 82 pp 28-31

[Text] BOHEMIA ECONOMICA interviewed Dulce Maria Martinez, director of standards, measures, and quality control in the Ministry of the Sugar Industry [MINAZ]. It was a dialogue without trivia or spectaculars where certain topics were discussed.

"We shall tell you about an actual occurrence," we told Dulce Maria Martinez in her office at MINAZ at 0925 hours in the morning while Olga, her secretary, was kindly making tea for the guests. "A short while ago we came across a young female laboratory technician from a sugar mill who confessed to us that she felt underemployed when the period of the sugar harvest was over. It turned out that this girl holding a bachelor's degree in chemistry has to work in the office during the repair period because her place of employment has no real duties for her."

Dulce Maria Martinez thanked us for this report and said that it deserved discussion, but she reviewed briefly the questionnaire which we had left for her initially and she proposed a thematic sequence for the interview. She explained to us the reason for this: "Why enter through the kitchen if the door of the living room is wide open?"

So, with the reader's permission, we shall begin.

A Few Paragraphs of Positioning

The Ministry of the Sugar Industry is a complex of enterprises which produce sugar cane, sugar, sugar byproducts, and provides a range of services such as rail transportation, production, mechanical services, industrial construction, and runs research and project institutes.

It is understood that this tremendous complex of enterprises has a complicated character when it comes to standardization, measurements, and control of the quality of all its economic products and activities. The said ministry has been involved in this important task for several years now and it is precisely to implement it that the directorate of standards, measures, and quality control was created.

The important fact is that such a task requires an integral plan at all times since none of its three components allows the existence of separate entities or special focuses. Its nature is systematic so that to establish norms without measurement and control elements would be to fall into the realm of metaphysics: They would never function and thus would solve nothing.

Under socialism with its planned economy, standardization fulfills the active role of drawing up norms directed to the speeding up of technical progress, an increase in labor productivity, and the raising of the quality of production. So that it may fulfill this role effectively standardization requires measurements and control, as explained earlier.

This concludes our paragraphs situating the directorate in appropriate perspective.

The Director Enters on the Scene

Let us begin with standards.

Dulce Maria Martinez noted the following in this connection:

"In our organization, standardization has developed gradually beginning with the establishment of experimental enterprises in 1977. It can be said today that we have achieved varying results at the base and in our own organization and its national enterprises. Consequently, we have made uneven progress in line with the different levels of development in the activity.

"As far as the base is concerned the progress has been more evident, especially in those sugar-producing enterprises where better objective and subjective conditions existed. As far as the cane-producing enterprises are concerned, they were created before such standardization activity got started even though an effort was made in this connection, basically in improving the quality of the cane."

"From what you said," we interjected, "one can then infer the initial conclusion that this uneven progress entails unequal results."

"It not only implies unequal results but also the actual fact that the elaboration of norms has encountered obvious limitations in its fulfillment. We are still far from exploiting the benefits which such technical tools hold for the progress of our own economic development."

The director continued to hold center stage.

But now she turned to the other component of the system, namely, measurements.

"Measurements (the means to measure and weigh) are crucial when reliable data are available. They have such influence that measurements are directly involved in securing information--for example, for the payment of premiums to the workers in our enterprises. The accuracy of such data will yield benefits both to the workers and to society in general."

After this appropriate example Maria Martinex broached the present situation.

"It should be noted right away that the bulk of our enterprises controls, through the appropriate registers, their means of measurements. This does not mean, however, that we are free from problems in this respect, such as errors in the technical data of our instrumentation and in the implementation of its repairs and checks.

"Still, an annoying problem which we meet nowadays relates to the technical state of our instrumentation for measurements. We must continue to develop spiritedly a policy of maintenance and repairs that would guarantee their optimal level of conservation, an area where we still meet various difficulties.

"Another important problem, even though it still lacks satisfactory solution, is that relating to the acquisition of adequate resources for replacements or new installations. In this respect we must place very special emphasis on sugar-producing and support enterprises where the major difficulties as well as major deficiencies in understanding occur."

We then came to the final component of the system--quality control--which, let us mention right away, was the subject of brilliant analysis at the first standardization activ of MINAZ held in October 1981.

"By definition," Dulce Maria Martinez explained, "quality control is a combination of activities directed at ensuring that the quality of production or services corresponds to established requirements."

"In our ministry," Dulce Maria Martinez went right to the heart of the matter, "The control of raw materials and auxiliary materials involves different situations. The cane-growing enterprises have their principal problem with fertilizers, which are almost never received in keeping with the needs of the user and furthermore reach the enterprises at times which virtually saturate their storage capabilities which are themselves really deficient. We must state in this respect that because of the importance of this matter our ministry is now studying alternatives for its solution. Another fundamental problem of sugar-producing enterprises is the quality and quantity of the seeds used, a dimension over which there is a lack of control.

"The sugar-producing enterprises, even though they have directives and instructions regulating the quality of their raw material (sugar cane), still exhibit difficulties in the determination of the impurities which find their way into the commodity because of the deficient way in which cane is removed from stalks, the insufficient supervision of these operations, and the instability of the personnel who perform these tasks.

"In general we face problems in one way or another with raw materials and auxiliary materials consumed by the complex of enterprises in our Ministry of the Sugar Industry."

"In contrast with the above, however, we must mention our sustained success in the quality of our principal finished product--sugar."

Thus far we covered the existing situation of the three components making up the system through a panoramic view of what is essential. Let the reader not get impatient. What is being done to find solutions is a subject that we shall broach at the conclusion, when we come to discussing immediate prospects.

We shall now continue in the thematic order of the interview. In the meantime, Olga, the secretary, kindly continues to bring us tea.

Samples and Their Collectors

Let us now look at the laboratories of the sugar-producing enterprises. Let us suppose hypothetically that all of them have adequate analytical techniques available, suitable instrumentation for measurements and weighing, optimal environmental conditions, and appropriately skilled personnel. But let us also assume that the samples to be analyzed do not indicate acceptable quality. The consequences will be that such perfect laboratories will run the risk of displaying imperfect results because of the poor quality of their samples.

Dulce Maria Martinez was very explicit in this respect when she asserted:

"Samples which are hardly typical will always yield results that are not representative and therefore not very reliable."

Maria Martinez faced the problem foursquare when she said:

"One cannot speak enough of the importance of analyzing samples which in truth are always representative of the products that we control. However, in many sugar-producing enterprises the samplers are pieces of equipment which do not enjoy priority in their installation and maintenance nor, in many cases, is the form of access to them taken into account. A similar situation arises with personnel charged with collecting samples, who are always people with the lowest level of skills in the enterprise and therefore receive the lowest economic remuneration.

"We feel that the solution is found in concentrating samplers at sampling stations as well as reevaluating the work setup of those who collect samples."

Technical-Material Supplies

We started discussing a new topic: The supplies of sugar laboratories. What is the situation in that respect?

Dulce Maria Martinez preferred to begin this point with an illustrative example.

"In 1970," she noted, "it cost around 30,000 pesos to equip a laboratory. At present this cannot be accomplished for under 100,000 pesos. It is appropriate that this be mentioned right at the start so that we may have an idea of the magnitude which such a task represents today."

And she immediately came to the heart of the matter.

"In previous years supplies shipped to our laboratories evidenced a frankly irregular and insufficient flow compared to their needs. As is logical, such a situation impacted on work in general.

"It should nevertheless be mentioned that the above problem is now being solved through the initiation of priority cooperation between our ministry and the State Committee for Technical Material Supply (CEATM), which seeks an immediate solution of the needs of the crude and refined sugar laboratories, given that these are by far the most important since they control the major volume of production. Subsequently, said priority cooperation will be done extensively for the other sugar operations in their broadest sense. This does not mean that the laboratories in the fields do not receive any supplies now, but rather that they will receive them in accordance with what is planned and the existing availability of resources.

"In the meantime, we must recognize that the CEATM has just made partial deliveries of equipment according to its possibilities. Thus, for example, during 1981, our laboratories received 100 driers, 44 incubators, 55 saccharimeters, 315 polarizing units, 9 ovens, a furnace muffle, 24 hand refractometers, 9 analytic scales, 18 precision scales, and other equipment.

"We are hoping that in 1983 an adequate and sufficient flow of equipment and materials will have been set up for all the laboratories of the sugar industry as a result of this joint MINAZ-CEATM endeavor. Together with this and in accordance with the orientations of the government, it is also contemplated that the laboratories will operate in suitable and air-conditioned premises to ensure the accuracy of chemical analyses."

A Turn to Hygiene

We brought up an example. How is the orientation, explained by the commander in chief at the conclusion of the last congress of the sugar industry trade union, on the maintenance of hygiene in our sugar mills being implemented?

Dulce Maria Martinez answered:

"I believe that this point is very important because it reflects the idea that our sugar-producing enterprises are first and foremost food-producing plants. Even though it has made progress, we must note that this concept still demands additional beefing up. To achieve this in all its magnitude we have already established points of coordination with the Ministry of Public Health. We consider this to be a step of primary importance in the said strengthening of the hygiene policy of our entire complex of sugar enterprises."

We Return to the Laboratories

At this point we returned to the question of use of laboratory personnel.

We reminded the director of standards, measures, and quality control of our actual encounter with the chemistry graduate who confessed to us that she felt underemployed when the period of the sugar harvest was over because her work place lacked substantial production during the period of repairs.

"There is no doubt," she answered, "that our sugar-producing enterprises, because of the cyclical character of their operations, experience a period when the work at the laboratories involves alterations and this objectively results in a period of slack use of personnel. Frankly, this is a problem which demands immediate solution with a well-defined strategy so as to make it possible, among other reasons, to totally stabilize the skilled labor force of our laboratories.

"In this respect we believe, for example, that that personnel can busy themselves with activities of industrial control during the period of repairs, something which is not done today. We also believe that the agroindustrial integration of our ministry will contribute to the expansion of the work assignments through the involvement of agricultural analysis.

"We repeat, however, that the immediate thing is to outline a definite strategy that will make it possible to find the appropriate solution."

Inspectors of the Process

New personnel are beginning to spread through the sugar-producing enterprises. They are the inspectors of the technological process working there. Their endeavor is beginning to be appreciated since they are considered an element of the first order for the firm establishment of quality control. What can Dulce Maria Martinez tell us about these inspectors? we queried.

"It is obvious that they represent a factor in the improvement of technological discipline in our mills and, additionally, for helping to dissipate supposed mysteries of the process, mysteries which generally stem from the incorrect application of the means directed toward that particular end.

"The inspectors, whose minimum qualification is technical skills at the intermediate level, have been introduced gradually, just as it is planned that they should work in all the sugar producing enterprises of the country and in each of their three work areas at that. We consider that these inspectors are very necessary for effective quality control."

Immediate Prospects

Olga, the secretary, arrived with tea for the guests. Fortunately, she now completed her laborious rounds with the stimulating beverage. Our interview was also on the point of being concluded. Dulce Maria Martinez summed up matters:

"We have explained so far in its essence the existing situation of standards, measures, and quality control in the Ministry of the Sugar Industry. We

"believe that we have done so in as clear and concise a manner as possible, without minimizing or magnifying any of its aspects.

"In concluding this brief review we must stress that we are making progress, notwithstanding the noted difficulties, that is, that our ministry's structure is gradually being improved. The essential thing is that in the last few years we have been gaining work experience and skills as well as creating a favorable atmosphere in a general sense about the need for same.

"In sum, we are optimistic because we believe that subjective conditions exist to guarantee the successful development of our society.

"Concrete evidence of the latter was the first activ which we held in October 1981.

"Starting specifically with the results of said activ our ministry has put into motion a set of decisions, some of them now under study while others, already drafted, are the following:

"1. Immediate application of the structure and outline which our operations will have in each type of enterprise.

"2. Approval of an investment plan intended to satisfy part of the needs which we have today in the supply of measuring instrumentation and other equipment relating to chemical, technical, and quality control of our production.

"3. To guarantee the active participation of the best technicians and skilled workers in the technical standardization committees.

"4. To begin to structure the standardization organs in the research institutes of MINAZ.

"5. To constitute a branch technical committee, which is a necessity of the first order.

"6. To develop a broad technical proficiency effort of our personnel integrated in the establishment of mechanisms of scientific-technical cooperation with countries of the socialist community and aimed at training specialists and coping with the complex tasks which we have ahead of us.

"7. Together with the above," Dulce Maria Martinez concluded, "We must also make work projections for this 5-year 1981-85 plan, covering the fulfillment of important measures, among them the execution of the integral sugar standardization program; the repair and internal verification of our measuring devices; the drafting and introduction of norms in the sugar sector; the drafting and execution of the standardization program in products derived from bagasse cakes, yeast, alcohol, and saccharin yeast, and finally, execution of the investment and insurance plan projected for the present 5-year plan."

As Dulce Maria Martinez said, "Rome was not built in a day." However, one has to begin somewhere since there is no alternative. What was presented above is tangible proof that the initial steps have been taken for that purpose. And the director invited us to climb the ladder, too, so that we may be authentic witnesses of the denouncement when it occurs. Accordingly, BOHEMIA ECONOMICA is committed to publishing the appropriate follow-up of activities pertaining to standardization, measurements, and quality control in the Ministry of the Sugar Industry. So, until next time.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. p 28. The inspectors: A factor to dissipate the alleged mysteries of the technical process.
2. p 29. "We are optimistic because we believe that subjective conditions exist to guarantee the successful development of operations," Dulce Maria Martinez, director of standards, measures, and quality control of MINAZ, told us.
3. p 29. Sustained accomplishment: The quality of sugar.
4. p 30. In 1983, adequate flow of equipment and materials to the laboratories of the sugar industry will be set up.
5. p 30. A basic problem of sugar-producing enterprises: The lack of control over the volume and quality of seeds used.
6. p 31. Tightening hygienic measures: Sugar mills are food-producing plants.
7. p 31. One problem requiring an immediate solution: Insufficient incentives for the collectors of samples.

2662

CSO: 3248/49

MATANZAS PORT-DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS NOTED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 10 Sep 82 p 35

[Article by Gregorio Hernandez: "Matanzas and Its Projects--What Is the Situation?"]

[Text] In our systematic tour across Matanzas Province we became concerned with the situation facing the port-transportation-internal economic setup in that region.

We say that we were concerned because we did not think that this province, one of those showing the best results in terms of economic efficiency in the country, would witness a deficit balance, evidenced by the position that it holds in transportation activity as a function of the optimum exploitation of equipment, with the receiving or shipping organs dealing with freight for economic and social purposes. Of that, from fifth place that it held nationally in the port network in 1981 Matanzas should slip to ninth place, with all that this ranking implies.

The survey through May 1982 indicates that turnaround time in railroad equipment in 1981, which was longer than scheduled, dropped to 100.1 percent this year, admittedly before the end of the first semester. This compared the 5,668 units of equipment used in the first half of 1981 with the 6,711 units in the corresponding period of the current year.

If one considers the volume hauled by freight cars, there was also a downslide compared to 1981, still considering the first 6-month period. During this time in 1981, 60,284 freight cars were handled and the average layover time was 0.16 percent above schedule while in 1982, with 60,849 transportation units handled, the average lag was only [sic] 0.9 percent above schedule.

Since such a sizable order of magnitude is involved, where, we ask, is the difficulty?

By way of answer we can state that, comparing months and years, slow but ostensible progress is involved. It can be inferred that during the months of April and May 1982 deficiencies surfaced which stymied the attractive and promising rate of growth which the province used to enjoy in eliminating demurrage connected with ground transportation. These problems are essentially

focused in the Food Wholesale Enterprise of the People's Government and range from the entry of loaded vehicles into the port and plants of the city of Havana without their having fulfilled the requirements of prior notice to disorganization in unloading and in the work of longshoremen brigades. Also, the aggravating lack of warehousing capacity, it being Jovellanos municipality which is experiencing in this respect the most critical situation, one which will be solved with the placement into service of a warehouse now being built and whose completion is scheduled for the close of 1982.

We present here in synthesis those municipalities of Matanzas Province which faced, through May 1982, the highest percentage of delay in the operation of railroad and highway transportation, contributing through this to a downslide from an acceptable ranking--fifth place--which the Matanzas region supposedly held at the national level in the port-transportation-internal economy network, in addition to the worsening situation evidenced by the Food Wholesale Enterprise of the People's Government.

To that end let us note that Colon heads the list with 40.13 percent above schedule; Jovellanos, 35.81 percent; Los Arabos, 7.37 percent; Jaguey Grande, 4.59 percent; Calimete, 4.25 percent.

It is to be hoped that in the survey to be taken before the end of the year Matanzas Province, whose chief town is crossed by two rivers, will be in the running for the top slots in terms of regional effort to maintain and improve productive work in the area of economic efficiency.

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NATURE, PURPOSE OF PARTY CANDIDATE COURSES NOTED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 1 Sep 82 p 2

[Article by Enrique Sanz Fals: "About Party Life"]

[Text] The courses for party candidates given in all of the country's municipalities have become an important means for the adequate preparation of the new entrants--party candidates and activists from the UJC [Union of Young Communists]--as regards the party's internal life.

Following the First Congress [of the Communist Party of Cuba] and in line with its directives in this respect, courses for party candidates were organized and started to be held.* Since that time, tens of thousands of comrades have taken the course. In the past 5 years alone there were 132,115 graduates of whom 83 percent were candidates while the remaining 17 percent were UJC activists in the process of joining the party.

Referring to them, comrade Fidel Castro, in his central report to the Second Congress, noted: "Courses for candidates initiated in September 1976 have represented a valuable effort in the preparation of these comrades."

The importance of these courses was also underscored in the resolution on internal party life also approved at the Second Congress. It was asserted in it: "In the forthcoming period it is important to make a special effort to consolidate the results obtained by the party's growth in the last few years in terms of the necessary preparation of the new entrants who have been incorporated into our base organizations through systematic and consistent educational effort with the purpose of educating them in the discipline and customs of party work in order to develop their communist training, thereby

*The status of party candidate was established and set forth in the Party By-laws approved at its First Congress. The party candidates are those comrades who, following the appropriate process of evaluation for possible admission, are accepted by the core. It is necessary for them to remain there no less than a year in this candidate status subject to the systematic supervision of the party base organization before being admitted as party activist. (For additional details, see Articles 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, and 17 of the Party By-laws.)

"achieving a conscious and effective contribution to the fulfillment of the different tasks of the party. The same attention will have to be offered to the new entrants who are registering now."

Subsequently, the same document stated that as a way to fulfill that goal it was necessary "to work so that the new entrants into the party--candidates and UJC activists--should secure adequate preparation with regard to the organizational principles and bases of party policy in courses for candidates."

The courses for party candidates thus provide an adequate response to specific directions of the two congresses of the Communist Party of Cuba.

In the courses the candidates and UJC activists in process of joining the party learn the principles on which the party's actions are based and become familiar with their principal guiding documents.

Nationally, in the course just given there were 18,200 matriculated comrades of whom 78 percent were candidates and 22 percent UJC activists in the process of joining the party. The total number of instructors, corresponding to an equal number of classes, came to 393.

Principal Goals

Among the goals of these courses, according to the general guidelines for their content, are the following: To help the new entrants know the theoretical bases and organizational principles that condition the party's leadership role in a socialist society; to contribute to the knowledge that the new entrants need to have of the bylaws and regulations guiding the functioning of the party's organs and base organizations; to stimulate the knowledge of the programmatic platform; and to encourage the exchange of experiences among candidates and UJC activists in the process of joining the party regarding their activity within the base organization, a fact which will impact on the knowledge of the role appropriate for them as party members.

The courses for candidates are based on a short program of various themes with relative internal autonomy. They can meet with varying frequencies, namely, one, two, or three times a week or once a month, and their duration can fluctuate according to the study setup that is used although a course never exceeds 6 months. The classes represent the base and can assume various formats depending on different factors, above all those stemming from the potentials of the students and conditions of the municipality.

Characteristics of the Courses

With respect to the above, the courses for candidates can adopt the following formats: A center organically connected with a CSPI [Center for Political-Ideological Proficiency], with a course coordinator and which can have annex classes; an independent class controlled by the CSPI; a class under the jurisdiction of the base organization but under the control and advice of the CPSI; or a group of graduates or one graduate assisted by a core activist under the direction and control of the base organization and the CSPI.

In all cases the instructors are activists--generally activists with ample development and experience in party work--many of them delighted to be undertaking a major task to transmit their knowledge to the new entrants.

In a talk with Pedro Montalvan, head of the study clubs section and CSPI of the department of internal education of the party's Central Committee, he told us that the courses for candidates are characterized by good attendance, retention, and advancement, as well as the dedication with which the instructors realize this task. The comrades, he noted, conclude their courses with a good command of internal party life.

He added that "we strive so that 100 percent of the new party entrants may pass these new courses in the 5-year period. There are conditions, the provinces are working on the matter, and we believe that there will not be any difficulties. Extensive party work is done in the base organizations to achieve the objectives of the courses."

The studies realized by the new party entrants in courses for candidates impact favorably in terms of greater grasp of their individual and social responsibilities and in the more adequate development of their capabilities in the interest of party activity. As Fidel Castro would appropriately say, the courses are "a valuable means for the preparation of these comrades."

One of the municipalities where good results have been obtained in courses for candidates is that of Guines in Havana Province. There, among students who complete their studies in the past course, it was a foregone conclusion that virtually all the new entrants to the party would have passed the courses for candidates. Those who entered in the latest cycle will be integrated in the party in September.

At Guines I basic secondary school a course is run for candidates assigned to the Crisanto Betancourt CSPI located in the same school. Last year there were 105 new party entrants who were trained there and in the latest course 38 graduated of whom 8, in keeping with the specifics of their work, received their preparation in their respective cores with the advice and guidance of the CSPI.

Regarding the functioning of the courses, Juan L. Rivero Rodriguez, director of the CSPI, told us that "their results have been satisfactory. They are of great help to those comrades who joined the party recently. We often proved this," he noted, "and it can be seen in practice. With the knowledge imparted to them, they can help their cores more in their party activities and the strengthening of the latter's internal life. The objectives of these courses have been fulfilled."

In the past 5-year period 618 comrades passed the courses for candidates in Guines municipality, which represents more than 97 percent of the entrants into the party in that period.

Among the subjects studied are the following: The historical need for the working class party; democratic centralism; Leninist principles of the structure and the organizational activity of the working class party; the Marxist-Leninist concept of activism in the party. Also, the bylaws, programmatic platform, regulation of the base organizations and regulation for disciplinary sanctions. Additionally, three lectures are given as follows: On the party's internal life; on aspects of our economy; and on ideological problems--all of them by cadres of the party's municipal committee.

These courses for candidates in Guines have three instructors who are experienced party activists. To exercise this function, they attend methodological seminars involving theoretical, pedagogical, and informational preparation.

"These courses," the director of the CSPI noted finally, "should be seen as a necessity for each comrade in order that he or she may excel in issues of the party's internal life. We are striving in this direction and the cores have gained much in terms of understanding."

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. p. 2. "The courses must be viewed as a need for each comrade to excel in issues relating to the party's internal life" (Juan L. Rivero Rodriguez, director of the Crisanto Betancourt CSPI of Guines).
2. p. 2 "At the conclusion of each course the core organizations receive a political-educational evaluation of the students whom they sent to the center, and periodically they are informed about their progress" (Maria E. Hernandez Garcia, distaff course coordinator, who is returned from the educational sector).
3. p. 2. "I believe that the knowledge that we acquire in the course is very useful and valuable for our future activity as activists and helps us to undertake political work more effectively" (Ada Ovies Garcia, distaff course delegate and director of the Piti Fajardo lying-in hospital).

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BISHOPS' CAUTIONARY DOCUMENT ON NATIONALIZATION

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 20 Sep 82 pp 6-9

[Article by Carlos Fazio]

[Text] The hierarchy of the Archdiocese of Mexico did not remain silent about the economic measures that President Lopez-Portillo ordered on 1 September. The bishops spoke out. They voiced fear, not enthusiasm; they expressed reservations and apprehension, not solidarity, and they issued a document that seemed addressed to the people who have money. They had no message for the people.

Individually, the bishops voiced these views:

Genaro Alamilla: Expropriations are not the way to resolve the country's problems. The nationalization of the banks could begin a process of radical statism in Mexico.

Javier Lozano: Exchange controls and the nationalization of the banks will halt profiteering but could lead to national socialism.

Francisco Orozco: The people do not understand economic problems. The measures might be sound, but that remains to be seen in practice.

Carlos Talavera: The Catholic Church's social doctrine approves of expropriations when they serve the common good, but does not support abuses of power.

Francisco Aguilera: I hope the nationalization brings more conscientious, more responsible and freer responses from the populace.

In a pastoral message from the Primate Archdiocese of Mexico, entitled "In the Face of the Current Crisis" and signed by Ernesto Cardinal Corripio and his nine bishops (Ricardo Watty, Luis Mena, Pablo Rovalo, Jorge Martinez and the aforementioned Alamilla, Lozano, Aguilera, Orozco and Talavera), the Church called for faith in God, austerity and sharing the wealth.

The episcopal document, dated 3 days after the nationalization of the banks and the imposition of exchange controls, is based on Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Laborem Exercens" and on the Puebla Document. It acknowledges the legitimate authority of the Mexican Government to order such measures, but cautions: "It is essential that whoever administers this property do so honestly and loyally for the good of the entire national community, so that they do not inflict further and, moreover, arbitrary damage (n. 14)." It also calls attention to the dangers of lapsing into "collectivism."

Drafted as a response by the Mexico City bishops to the economic measures taken by the government in the face of the country's economic and political crisis, the pastoral message does not say a single word about the causes of the present state of affairs. It makes only ambiguous reference to the ruinous effects of worshiping money, but says nothing about the men who have made money a god and left the country almost godless and moneyless.

Drafted by Monsignor Carlos Talavera, the document is structured vertically. The first part, "Full Faith in God," asserts that money "had played the role of number one, the role of God for us." And this, it clarifies, "is idolatry." It states: "Money becomes an idol and enslaves man." It offers this antidote: "To work and develop as individuals." It does not speak of the relationship between money and justice; it speaks of the relationship between money and God. It also seems to call on the wealthy to change their outlook. Values must be changed so that only God is the object of worship: "Everything is possible for those who have faith, and everything that believers pray for is bestowed." It will be Divine Providence, through prayer, that will get us out of the crisis.

The second part, "A Life of Austerity," recommends hard work to avoid lapsing into "providentialism." Man is God's "partner" in changing the world. "Our refrain puts it quite well: 'God helps those who help themselves.' We cannot sit idly by in the face of this crisis; we have to work and act." And this calls for a true life of austerity. We must once again change our outlook: we must reject extravagance and a society of luxuries, insulting inequalities, easy profits and irresponsibility in every area. We must convince ourselves of this: "Each one of us is valuable for what he is, not directly for what he owns." The longing to have more and more gives rise to corruption and immorality. Everything is sacrificed to the god of money. It matters not that persons are destroyed, demagogues cultivated and a life of lies pursued. Effrontery and cynicism reign.

For this reason, the episcopal document recommends social and personal sincerity. Poses and appearances must be put aside. We must strive for Mexico's common good. And to this end it appeals for accuracy from the mass media. Dangerous rumors are disorienting, giving rise to bad decisions.

In Chapter III, "Sharing of the Wealth," they urge solidarity. We must oppose and fight against all illicit enrichment, all embezzlement of funds, all bribery and injustice. The nationalization of private banks can be justified only within the framework of sharing the wealth. As if not yet convinced of the government's economic measures, they express doubts and fears. They do not regard this as a real, tangible move. There is not a single reference to the people who took dollars out of the country [sacadolares], the people whom President Lopez-Portillo called "traitors." But they do mention that in order for these steps to be "consistent," they must truly further "the good of the nation" and be "objectively necessary." Not a single mention of the former private bankers. But oh yes, whoever administers the banks must do so honestly and loyally and not do further damage or be arbitrary. They are putting the cart before the horse.

They quote the pope and his encyclical on labor. They say that a reform of "rigid" capitalism cannot be carried out "by an a priori elimination of the private ownership of the means of production." Simply taking "capital" from the hands of its owners does not necessarily mean the socialization of the means of production. The leadership could do its job poorly; if leaders also demand "a State monopoly on the administration and management of the means of production," the country could lapse into "collectivism." Socialization exists only when individuals are "co-owners" of the fruits of their labor. They offer this suggestion: make labor and capital partners and set up intermediate bodies that are independent of the government but that can cooperate with it.

Our great responsibility is to share the work. We must banish the idea of "there goes the cause of it all." They say "no" to easy profits, because with that approach neither the expropriation of the banks nor the exchange controls will resolve the underlying problem. It would be more of the same: "We would again be looking at facades, semblances, but things would be even worse: a society of lies, of fiction, particularly in economic matters."

In conclusion, they summarize: a real change lies in total faith in God and is manifested in an austere lifestyle and sharing the wealth. A Christian makes this choice unopportunistically. We must make a true choice to help the poor, but not blindly. The poor, as a historical factor (others shape history), are the beneficiaries of the solidarity requested of the wealthy. It is laymen who must interpret history, while pastors distinguish Christian values. From above and along with the Lord, they are the ones who shape history.

Therefore, even though their work is not of this world, they can voice individual judgments on issues such as the nationalization of banks and exchange controls and, like Monsignor Javier Lozano (Press Selections, "Catholic Documentation and Information," p 816), say that the move was positive "as long as the (new) administrators do not feel that they own the pie, because the people will demand to be treated with dignity." He even points out the risks of a possible drift towards "national socialism" and "complete government control."

And then there is Monsignor Genaro Alamilla, the secretary general of the Mexican Episcopate, who openly opposed the expropriation of the banks because "this is not the right way" and "it could, moreover, begin a process of radical statism." According to the bishop, in Mexico "we are not used to the State having such a preponderant role in economic matters." In other nations the measure taken by the Mexican Government "would entail a move towards the consolidation of a government-run system."

The itinerant monsignor, who is just back from Caracas, where he spoke to the conservative Latin American Workers Federation (CLAT), which is subsidized by international Christian Democracy, agrees with the Employers Coordinating Council (CEE) and sees a socialist Mexico in the offing. In an editorial in the paper LA PRENSA on 3 September he cried out: "Not Another Poland!" And on page 810 of the Press Selections he stated: "Frankly, transferring the banks to government hands is a touchy move. Expropriations do not resolve a nation's problems. A democratic country like ours should promote political and economic organization to level off its imbalances."

Alamilla also got a head start on President Lopez-Portillo's address and came out in defense of the bankers. On 1 September he wrote in LA PRENSA: "It is futile to turn against all of them (the people in charge of the government and the private sector), to hurl insults at them, to point an accusatory finger at them and to blame them alone for our situation, inasmuch as this solves nothing; it only inflames the emotions and creates divisions among us that are more undesirable and dangerous than ever because of the consequences they could have." On that same day, the president accused them of having pillaged the country.

Neither Cardinal Corripio nor any of his bishops said a single word about the reasons why the president ordered these economic measures, nothing about "dollarization," about the concentration of wealth, about bank profiteering, about the flight of capital. There is no past to be analyzed and judged. They did not speak of the dangers of concentration of wealth, but today they are speaking of the dangers of nationalizing the banks. And in the face of the dangers that they have cautioned about, they called for a week of prayer.

8743

CSO: 3248/64

CHARGE OF GOVERNMENT PLAN AGAINST BANK WORKERS UNION

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 20 Sep 82 pp 10-13

[Article by Salvador Corro]

[Text] Even though President Jose Lopez-Portillo announced in his sixth state of the union report that in the wake of the nationalization of banks "the longstanding desire to create a bank workers union could be fulfilled," the government itself is bent on preventing one.

With its typical age-old maneuvers and vices, the government labor union is not only stymying the creation of a national bank workers "union" (the longstanding desire that the president talked about) but also challenging the workers' control of their own emerging union organizations.

Trumped up and simply nonexistent assemblies, the imposition of leaders, the creation of company unions, prefabricated bylaws, black lists and iron-fisted control by incorporating organizations into the FSTSE [Federation of government Workers Unions] are the tactics that have been utilized to coopt what could be a powerful and influential national bank workers union.

No sooner had Lopez-Portillo finished reading his report, in which he assured the nation that "the rights of workers in the banking system will be respected" and that the Mexican Government does not fear the labor movement, than the government tried a classic maneuver to get a jump on the situation and deprive the bank workers of their rights and thus control them.

To this end it had the efficient collaboration of bank managers, assistant directors, department heads and personnel chiefs, as well as of the FTCA [Federal Tribunal of Conciliation and Arbitration].

The maneuver was a mass appeal for bank union registration. It was essayed on 13 September and for the time being has helped the government to thwart the creation of a single national union. In addition, it created confusion among the workers, intensified the struggle for the control of the incipient bank labor movement and was a good pretext to discredit the services rendered by the nationalized banks.

It took only 2 weeks to set up the apparatus that is today challenging the workers for their right to organize and control their own unions. Should this maneuver fail, there is still the Labor Regulations for Bank Employees in Credit Institutions and Auxiliary Organizations, which, as long as they are not repealed, ban unionization.

For the moment, the FSTSE has appointed a group of advisers, headed by Victor Rosas Moreno, the former secretary of agreements in the TFCA (the top labor authority of government workers), to coordinate the unionization and see to it that the new labor organizations join the federation.

While the sponsors of the national union, with faith in the president's message, were summoning their colleagues to appoint representatives in democratic assemblies, the assistant directors, managers and personnel chiefs of the nationalized banks set in motion a longstanding plan to cope with a situation like this (PROCESO No 197).

Prefabricated Bylaws

On Thursday the 9th, the heads of human resources and bank personnel were summoned to a meeting in the Pan-American Room at the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit. Officials from the National Banking and Insurance Commission gave them instructions as to how the unionization process would be carried out. The urgent thing, they were told, was to immediately call for union registration. To this end, the 54 petitions for union registration had to be submitted to the FTCA no later than Monday the 13th. The point was to register one union per institution.

Models for union bylaws and assembly and union charters were handed out, all of them prefabricated. The only thing the workers had to do was write in the name of their institution. The bylaws were the same for the Banco de Comercio, the Banco Capitalizador de Veracruz and Serfin alike.

The 21-page model bylaws contain flaws that make the ploy obvious. They include neither a statement of principles nor a program of action. For example, Article 1 reads:

"The (...) union was formed pursuant to a resolution at an assembly held in Mexico City on 1 September."

Bank employees did not work on 1 September or for the next 4 days, on presidential orders. The newly nationalized banks did not open until the 6th. By that time the workers who were interested in unionizing had held meetings already at the headquarters of the Labor Congress, where they agreed to set up a National Union Coordinating Committee.

Article 5, Subparagraph 5 of the prefabricated bylaws reads: "To strengthen the bonds of friendship with all organizations belonging to the FSTSE and their members."

Another article sets the amount of the bank workers' union dues. Article 40 reads: "To cover all the expenditures of the union, union dues are hereby established, equivalent to one percent of the monthly salary of rank-and-file workers who belong to the union."

The recommendation to call for registration was punctually observed, although the documents had to be improvised. In fact, in most of the cases the petitions were signed by the minimum membership stipulated by law, 20 workers.

On Monday the 13th the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare reported that the TFCA had received 42 petitions for union registration. All of them were lumped together.

That same day, the spokesman of the FSTSE hastened to claim that at least four of the unions had already asked to join the federation.

The move took the independent workers by surprise. They had to retreat from their plan to form a national union and change their strategy. Their decision was to form one union per institution. This heightened the struggle between the workers and the managers and assistant directors, who are promoting company unions.

Knowing that they were safe in their jobs (thus surviving the nationalization), the upper-, middle- and lower-level bank officials went about thwarting the unionization and, in passing, discrediting the nationalization by encouraging an interruption of bank services.

For example, an "open letter" opposing unionization circulated among workers and officials at the National Bank of Workers and Services (Banobras).

"...Those of us workers who have devoted our honest and best efforts to learning, developing and applying banking systems, support the nationalization of the banks but we have decided against a bank union," the letter says. The following are the reasons:

"Experience has shown us that every labor movement in Mexico has only served to manipulate the interests and contributions of the members, who have never seen any benefits.

"In addition, bank employees, who are supposed to have (and feel that they have) superior educations and minds, would only be fooling themselves if they let themselves be taken by surprise by the upstarts who would like to take advantage of this crisis to fleece them."

Lastly, the poorly written letter expresses surprise: "It is inconceivable that our colleagues in Banobras would close their eyes to the fringe benefits that the bank gives us, which compared to those of other unionized employees, and whoever would dare to wield them, would be like slapping their service owners and the people who opened the doors to them, in the face" [sic].

The letter was circulated to gather signatures. It was rejected, however, and triggered the resignation of the head of human resources, Reynaldo Perez Negrin, who was said to have authored it.

Alfredo Raygoza, the spokesman of Banobras workers, said that leaflets were distributed at all branches on the 10th with the news that Rafael Lopez had been named secretary general of the union. He had previously been the commercial banks' administrative delegate to Banobras.

In their assembly, however, the workers chose Ramiro Baez Hurtado as their leader.

Sabotaging Services

Something similar took place at Multibanco Comermex. The managers at the Toreo and Polanco branches handed out tags that the employees were supposed to wear. The flashily colored and lettered tags said: "Comermex lives. Comermex will live."

Some of the windows at the Toreo branch were systematically closed, to annoy account holders. When depositors complained, the reply was that "we have no instructions," "the workers are at an assembly," "we don't know what we're supposed to do after this nationalization," etc.

At the Banca Serfin, which belonged to the Monterrey Group, whose members are known for their skillful manipulation of company unionism, the mechanism was the same. The personnel manager, Felipe Garcia Moreno, was directly in charge of setting up the union.

Luis Natinio Vargas, the spokesman for Serfin workers, proclaimed that the personnel manager had a group that went about signing up workers and that passed itself off as belonging to the democratic union. "The workers are refusing to sign the documents creating the union."

The workers who refuse to sign are threatened with dismissal or some sort of other administrative sanction, however. In contrast, the people in charge of the company union not only have the necessary leaves of absence but also get money to defray the costs of their efforts.

The antiunion climate prevailing in the banks, prompted by the officials who survived the nationalization, is no different from the climate before the takeover. In fact, one promoter of unionization has already been fired.

On 14 September, Florentino Vega received the following memo, signed by the human resources director at Banca Confia: "I am hereby informing you that inasmuch as your services are no longer needed at this institution, we have rescinded your employment contract and are making available to you, as of this date, the appropriate constitutional compensation."

The workers began organizing right after the nationalization, Florentino Vega told PROCESO. Several representatives, backed by more than 400 signatures, were initially named. "But on Monday we found out that a union had already been registered, with an Executive Committee made up of unknowns or unconditional followers of the manager or personnel chief."

Vega went on to say that "we named a Board of Directors and a work coordinating committee and on Tuesday the 14th we exposed the group of scabs." The Confia executives had held a closed-door meeting on Friday the 10th to draw up the list of people who would head up the union. The 33-name list included Cecilio Borja, supposedly an assistant bookkeeper but who does not work at the bank; Lino Arturo Leal, the director's chauffeur, and Enrique Carrion R. and Gerardo Gutierrez, who are bank guards.

When the workers, meeting on the front steps of the bank, spoke out against these irregularities, Florentino Vega received the aforementioned memo.

The workers at the Multibanco Mercantil de Mexico were informed on Friday the 10th that they belonged to a union. They were specifically told that the union would be registered the following Monday.

And in fact they did request union registration on Monday the 13th. "It wasn't until then that we realized that we had been deceived. The head of human resources had distributed leaflets at the nine branches in a bid to gather signatures. When we tried to hold an assembly to disavow the union, the security personnel spread false information and sabotaged the attempt."

Despite the threats, pressures and sanctions that executive personnel are using against the workers, they have met on at least three occasions and have now formed their own union. They had to hold their last meeting in the garden of the National Library because they were refused access to the bank.

Former Bankers in Action

The exact same procedure was followed at the BCH [Central Mortgage Bank(?)]. The list of names that would appear on the union registration petition was ready on Friday the 10th.

The workers disavowed the union that same day. Some of the would-be leaders even had to leave the premises, as the indignant workers threatened to use force to remove them.

At the Credit and Service Bank, former banker Antonio del Valle Ruiz personally gave instructions to organize "trustworthy" personnel so that they could be included as union leaders.

Bancomer [Bank of Commerce] and Banamex [National Bank of Mexico], the two largest banks, employ slightly more than 55,000 workers. Before the nationalization, union activity there was almost impossible; their security system was union-proof.

Today, organized labor is making progress, even though company unions have already been registered there too. Furthermore, the bank managers "are pressuring us into talking with the so-called union leaders, even at the expense of halting work."

There is a 54-case file of how the company unions have been set up and how the machinery for controlling the workers has been fine-tuned.

The assault by the managers, directors and all sorts of other officials has thwarted the establishment of a nationwide union. Thus, the 150,000 workers in this activity are on the verge of organizing in 54 different unions.

After the government resolved that the workers in the nationalized banks would be governed by Paragraph B of Article 123 of the constitution, the FSTSE embarked on its task: paving the way for bank worker membership in the federation.

Even before the people in charge of organizing the company unions had met, Luis Jose Dorantes Segovia, the president of the Labor Congress, had stated that the workers would be grouped in as many unions as there were banks. In addition, the FSTSE's press office sponsored news conferences with so-called union leaders.

Fidel Velazquez, the leader of the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers], has apparently stayed out of the unionization process. The only thing that he has emphatically asserted is that the workers at the Banco Obrero would remain under Paragraph A of Article 123 of the constitution. This is the only private bank left.

Starting today the democratically formed unions will request registration. They are leaving it up to the TFCA to choose between a democratically established organization and the shams that were brought before it as a group.

White-collar workers are on the verge of becoming company union workers.

8743

CSO: 3248/64

CST ADMITS ORGANIZATIONAL ERRORS EXIST

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Sep 82 pp 1, 5

[Dispatch by Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] Lucio Jimenez, secretary general of the Sandinist Workers Federation (CST), took stock of the extent of fulfillment of some announcements made by that trade union organization during recent months, acknowledging that in many cases the leaders had failed to carry through.

Taking as a point of departure the lines of action established before May 1, international Workers' Day, BARRICADA approached Comrade Jimenez to find out what had happened to plans made by the CST.

In the first place, Jimenez acknowledged that there are flaws in the work being done by various committees of the CST's National Council, a consulting body, which have prevented them from working systematically; rather, they have confined themselves to only the meetings set for every 3 months.

"It's a deficiency of ours," he noted, and then he said that the situation is being rectified, for that neglect does not enable them to arrive at the quarterly assemblies with better opinions concerning problems.

Regarding the CST's announcement in April that guidelines would be drawn up with INAA [National Institute of Sewers and Aqueducts] for analysis of the situation of high rates of drinking water service, he indicated that in fact three departmental assemblies [Managua, Granada, and Chinandega] were held as planned.

These sessions were held in coordination with the CDS' [Sandinist Defense Committees], and a certain number of workers took part, but at the neighborhood level, not by factory. Although the exact outcome concerning that announcement was not learned, Jimenez said that the follow-up phase was the responsibility of the neighborhood body, the CDS', though it was promoted by the CST as a move to protect workers' standard of living.

Poor Response by the Trade Unions

We also asked him what had resulted from the assertion by the CST, and by the Trade Union Coordinating Committee of Nicaragua (CSN), before May 1 that the unions should establish production goals and achieve 100 percent fulfillment of work discipline and attendance at both production centers and military training.

His answer was that very few unions actually sent their commitments to the CST Executive Board, and he acknowledged that the organization's leaders had failed to monitor the situation.

Regarding attendance to MPS [Sandinist Popular Militias] centers, he said, "We've met the goals, but this task needs further support, for experience has shown that as time passes, attendance declines. On the basis of this, the CST has a goal of 50 percent in revolutionary vigilance, 30 percent in the MPS, and 10 percent in the Reserve Battalions."

Worker Participation

Continuing with the tasks set forth in the wake of the rainstorms in May, the CST announced that there would be greater worker participation in enterprises through Civil Defense Committees (CDC); there was renewed talk of insuring 100 percent attendance at work; and leaders spoke of a program of full care for the worker and of promotion of the Political School, especially in the Managua area.

Jimenez answered that at the time, the problem of attendance was not broached from a disciplinary point of view, but rather as a matter of returning to reality. He explained that the call was particularly for the cleaning up of factories and streets.

The program of full care for the worker was implemented in such a way that departmental coordinating committees were established, and, regarding the Managua Political School, this resolution was carried out, with 80 percent attendance.

Worker participation through the CDS' operated during the emergency. The CST secretary general said that, on the basis of that experience, in similar situations only coordination by the unions with the administrations of the enterprises is needed.

The plan to contribute 2 percent of wages for flood victims was carried out, and, although Lucio did not know the exact amount of money collected, it was officially turned over to the INSSBI.

Although there was talk of the creation of materials banks in enterprises, this did not occur; but some unions did it to contribute materials to members who were victims.

The Emulation Workday

In honor of July 19, the Managua CST announced, jointly with the COIP [People's Industrial Corporation], a plan for worker participation in 8 enterprises in the capital as well as the institution of the emulation workday in 32 unions in order to raise attendance and punctuality levels. The same plan had been launched at the beginning of the year without success.

In the matter of worker participation, there has been some experience; and, on the basis of it, the CST will draw up specific guidelines soon. One aspect of it has been the meetings between workers and experts. Concerning the emulation workday,

it has continued with fewer participants, and the outstanding workers have been honored with recognition.

However, Jimenez indicated that the emulation workday depends on the management level of the union; and other problems have arisen. "It's really a problem of organization," he said. The labor leader announced that on 26 September unions in the foodstuffs sector will meet to draw up a work plan, as announced at their assembly in June.

9085

CSO: 3248/55

REAGAN SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALAN REGIME SCORED

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Sep 82 pp 1, 6

[Editorial] The Central American Democratic Community has not been able to resist the latest reason given by the very Christian regime of Efraim Rios Montt for letting it into that august body:

"He guarantees that those who engage in shooting the hunger* of their people will promptly be shot."

Mr Reagan applauds with delight and endorses his latest report to the U.S. Congress that "there is clear progress with respect to human rights in Guatemala."

Nicaragua is not entering the Community owing to the many convincing arguments adduced by the honorable Central American foreign ministers.

The Nicaraguan Revolution is keeping thousands of former guardsmen prisoner and is not carrying out the democratic procedure of disappearances and shootings.

The Nicaraguan Revolution makes constant use of the antidemocratic expedient of pardoning its political adversaries.

The Nicaraguan Revolution distributes land among the peasants for them to work instead of providing land in cemeteries, as the illustrious Rios Montt does.

In its persistent antidemocracy, the Nicaraguan Revolution denies foreign exchange funds to businessmen for the importation of luxury goods and makes sure of having the cheapest foodstuffs in the region and unchangeable prices for transport, milk, and so forth.

The Nicaraguan Revolution does not engage in intrigue for the removal from their parishes of priests who side with the poor, nor does it murder archbishops.

The Revolution, in short, is the negation of Rios Montt's motto because it devotes all its efforts to shooting hunger and brings before the Council of State those who want to perpetuate it.

*Translator's note: The author is apparently quoting a misspelling of the Spanish word "hombre" ("man") in the form of "hambre" ("hunger").

As a result, Mr Reagan denies dollars for bread for Nicaraguans and invests them in rifles for those who murder and rob our fellow countrymen from Honduras.

As a result, to Mr Reagan and the honorable Central American foreign ministers, Nicaragua may not meet with them because they would then risk infection with that people-oriented virus, and it is preferable to be immunized with the blood of the heroic members of the Poor People's Guerrilla Army.

For the crimes and repression that feed the great democratic press, you have to look in the cables of multinationals "reporting" on Poland.

Or in the LE FIGARO photos about Nicaragua or in Mrs. Kirkpatrick's 200,000 massacred Miskitos.

Don't think that we are being ironic. That would be literature, when in the name of God and Christian Western Civilization a monster named Efraim Rios Montt has just murdered four Guatemalan patriots in public.

We are actually showing, in all its grossness, the overturning of values that occurs when people cling to accumulation of wealth and privilege created with the peoples' sweat and blood.

We are actually exhibiting the hypocrisy of those who today beat their breast and denounce the "perversion" of a revolution like that in Nicaragua which violate the "classiness" of cities by bringing the underprivileged into "residential" areas; a revolution that sets up farms for prisoners; a revolution that exiled the death penalty and only wishes that they will also let it peacefully exile hunger, misery, and exploitation.

The peoples' demand for liberation will never be extinguished by 4, 20, or 50 executions of guerrilla fighters. Nicaragua knows that, and consequently, just as the Rios Montt's of this world charge the stigma and ignominy of their crimes to their personal account, we are saving for the glorious, immortal pages of the history of the liberation of the peoples the names of Jaime de la Rosa, Julio Cesar, Julio and Marcelino, to shout to them from the bottom of our heart the most beautiful /all present . . . present . . . present!/ [in boldface].

9085

CSO: 3248/55

OFFICIAL REPORTS ON SUBSIDIES FOR NECESSITIES

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Sep 82 p 12

[Text] It is estimated that the revolutionary government has invested more than 700 million cordobas so far to subsidize basic consumer products in order to guarantee and [words omitted] thousands of Nicaraguans. Bernardino Turcios, vice minister of domestic trade, told EL NUEVO DIARIO this.

The official at MICOIN [Ministry of Domestic Trade] added that an official price list for essential products has been established under strict supervision and control. This has helped slow down the rising trend recorded before the action of this ministry.

In addition, state retail and popular distribution channels have been established and consolidated, giving priority to the productive areas, through ENABAS [National Staple Foods Enterprise] and CORCOP [Commercial Corporation of the People], both institutions under MICOIN. Turcios indicated that the people have been redirected toward the consumption of substitutes for certain products which have a fixed supply or are important sources of foreign revenue.

1,126 Stands

MICOIN has tried to reduce speculation in goods of prime necessity with concrete responses like the creation of the 1,126 retail stands that ENABAS has today. This contrasts enormously with the 322 that existed in the final years of the dictatorship.

Turcios also indicated that 788 people's stores, 10 supermarkets, 446 stands in the state enterprises, 179 rural collection centers and 45 intermediate collection centers have been established throughout the country. Their main function is to collect the basic grains produced and supply the areas with those traditional consumer products. All this did not exist under the dictatorship.

The informant emphasized that since MICOIN was created, one of its basic functions has been to guarantee distribution, prices, control and organization of trade at the national level.

Started from Zero

The vice minister explained that the shortage in production has made it difficult to totally achieve the goal because if there is not sufficient production, distribution will be difficult. It cannot be forgotten that in 1979 the crops were practically nonexistent because the productive cycle of agriculture had been interrupted. Consequently, we started the period 1980-81 with a number of problems in general lack of inventory supplies that the country normally had. It was not until the 1981-82 cycle that, in spite of many problems in some categories, this was overcome little by little, especially in the production of rice, beans and sorghum. Corn is still a problem due to its limited production; the first harvest will be far below estimates this year.

Storage Problems

Another problem that MICOIN faces at this time in grain storage and collection is the obsolete and worn-out infrastructure that we inherited. It barely has capacity for 200 tons.

However, great efforts are being made now to build two batteries of silos, one in Masaya and the other in Chontales. Together they will provide capacity for 23,500 tons. Possibly they will be constructed by July 1983. In addition to permitting the collection and storage of basic grains, they will give an immediate response to the need for infrastructure that is very limited today, according to the vice minister of MICOIN.

It is important to point out that ENABAS (under MICOIN)--which is responsible for collection of the national production, storage and distribution of most of the basic grains--is one of the instruments of the revolutionary state to insure control and supply to the Nicaraguan people at reasonable prices. As wholesaler, it collects and distributes 50 percent of the production in basic grains with the exception of rice; it collects and distributes 100 percent of the rice production.

CORCOP is the organization that covers all those enterprises that belonged to Somoza and his clique; they were ransacked, decapitalized and in the red. The majority of them have been satisfactorily revitalized in spite of the many problems they have faced such as lack of technical personnel, scarcity of foreign currency, financing, etc. CORCOP has merged and created trade complexes with divisions for supermarkets, hardware, domestic appliances, services, textiles and articles for the home.

Production Subsidies

Turcios stressed that it is also important to point out that the revolutionary state, in addition to offering subsidies to consumption of basic grains, also grants subsidies to production of these grains through facilities to producers to bring their crops from very remote, isolated areas.

The work on trade in recent months by MICOIN is equally important. It has prevented, to some degree, speculating, hoarding and price increases that have occurred in the rest of the Central American countries.

Inflation in our country has barely reached 20 percent in basic consumer products due to the role of the People's Property Area in cooperatives. The MICOIN official noted that, under their collateral efforts, the problem of production will gradually be resolved and the distribution of basic consumer products will be resolved.

Food Assured

Turcios also revealed that, in spite of the innumerable problems in production this year, there are enough basic grains to supply the country. There are even enough imperishable products for national consumption.

The only product that is being imported now is corn for the reasons noted above. The rest of the products that the Nicaraguans consume in their daily diet are all national. All licenses for the import of grains, legumes and produce have been banned even if done with personal funds, the official emphasized.

Within the economic defense plans, MICOIN--through the Directorate of Control and Standards and the Directorate of Distribution Networks--has implemented and combined a number of actions to overcome all the problems that have affected marketing, distribution and price manipulation for some time. These have very noticeably affected the real wage of the large majority of the Nicaraguan people.

The fight to achieve adequate and normal distribution of essential goods will permit the state to approach the task of reestablishing its objectives and carrying out integral marketing strategies to guarantee the purchasing power of the lowest income sectors.

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LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING ISSUES STATEMENTS

Managua Declaration Text

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Sep 82 p 7

[Text] The participants at the International Seminar on "Liberalism and Social Changes" held in Managua from 26 August to 29 August 1982 at the invitation of the Independent Liberal Party of Nicaragua,

Whereas:

Liberalism as a philosophical doctrine has not been surpassed in the basic freedoms of man and human rights;

Economic development is correlative to social justice with broad popular participation;

Liberalism must adapt its principles to the structural social changes that the people of Latin America demand;

Those revitalized and renovated principles must be explicitly indicated;

The political and social reforms realized by the liberal revolutions in Latin America were only possible through armed struggle legitimized by popular support;

The institutional violence of some regimes leads to constant violation of the rights and freedoms of the citizens;

Economic development must be done through the saving of resources;

A mixed economy and political pluralism are essential to avoid permanent intermediaries between the people and real popular power; and

The judicial branch must be reinforced and respected, in its prerogatives and decisions, by the executive branch as an important factor to guarantee civic freedoms;

Agrees:

1. To recognize the right of the peoples to armed struggle against oppression and to support it when this is their last recourse.
2. To advocate a real, true agrarian revolution that leads to the rational use of land, always preserving the ecological balance and structuring the conditions for integral development of agriculture as the antecedent to authentic national industrial development.
3. To promote and support self-centered development which means:
 - a) Nationalization of the strategic means of production;
 - b) Planning guided by the state with the participation of private initiative, labor and peasant unions and other organizations such as cooperative communities and other popular organizations;
 - c) Acceptance of the principles and postulates of cooperatives in all spheres, particularly associated work;
 - d) Participation by the workers and peasants in the development of the means of production in order to achieve better distribution of the wealth, insure their social well-being and promote their civic activities; and
 - e) Regulation of the marketing system in order to protect the interests of the popular classes and Latin American economic integration.
4. To encourage the strengthening of the executive, legislative and judicial organs in political and administrative terms so that each one exercise its constitutional function with due independence but with the required cooperation and harmony that their administrative function demands.
5. To encourage decentralization of the executive branch in political and administrative terms through regionalization, particularly reinforcing the autonomy of municipalities through direct popular vote, thereby opening the way to new alternative forms of popular participation and government.
6. To promote education, culture and scientific and technological development, understood as a process of change and transformation and training of man and society to achieve liberation.
7. To incorporate the basic principles of nonalignment as the basis and foundation of the self-determination of the peoples.
8. To promote the republican principle of alternating political power through the mechanism of free elections that also guarantee the expression of the minorities.

With the reincorporation of new social principles, the liberal parties of Latin America again offer themselves to the continent as a political alternative that leads to the total liberation of their peoples.

Managua, 29 August 1982

Resolution Supports Revolution

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Sep 82 p 7

[Text] The undersigned liberal parties of Latin America, Canada, FRG and the Secretariat General of Liberal International, participants at the International Liberal Seminar, reiterate our solidarity with the Nicaraguan people.

We support the efforts of the Nicaraguan Government to structure a mixed economy necessary for national economic recovery.

We believe that the Nicaraguan revolution must maintain an effective policy of nonalignment with the hegemonic blocs of power and thus expand the international sympathy of democratic countries. We are satisfied that an acceptable political pluralism is respected and observed. We believe it must be strengthened as an indispensable measure so that the Nicaraguan revolution can enjoy the support and goodwill of the international democratic community. The improvement of effective political pluralism must be one of the basic accomplishments of this revolution.

The climate of violence in Central America especially concerns us. Therefore, we support the efforts of the Nicaraguan Government to solve by peaceful means the conflicts that afflict the Nicaraguan people and the entire Central American region.

We offer our aid in this sense since the specter of the internationalization of a war in Central America would be the greatest tragedy in the history of the region.

We condemn any type of intervention in the internal affairs of Nicaragua, considering it harmful to the achievement of peace and harmony among nations. Self-determination of the peoples is an indisputable liberal principle and a premise for the restoration of effective democracy in our countries.

With singular pleasure we have read the statements of the Nicaraguan Government reiterating the commitment of the Nicaraguan revolution to hold elections by 1985 with the effective participation of the political parties.

We hold the conviction that only through a general election will the Nicaraguans be able to perfect the democratic accomplishments achieved after a long struggle against oppression and the tyranny.

We recognize the accomplishments achieved by the national government in the social area, health, the benefits that the peasants receive by being integrated in national life and especially the success of the literacy campaign that offered education to all Nicaraguans.

We uphold the principle of freedom of expression and freedom of religion.

We salute the Nicaraguan people, especially those who have faith in the liberal principles of nationalism, anti-imperialism, democracy, political pluralism, nonalignment and a mixed economy, with the assurance that they are indispensable for the survival and consolidation of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Managua, 29 August 1982

NAARENDORP DENIES CUBAN MODEL FOR SURINAME

The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 24 Sep 82 p 2

[Text] The Hague, September 23--The foreign minister of Suriname, Mr Harvey Naarendorp, told a press conference in the Surinamese embassy here today that his country did not plan to imitate Cuba.

'The Cuban model does not fit Surinam,' he said, adding that Dutch press reports saying that Surinam was becoming another Cuba, were based on misinformation.

He said a close study of the Surinamese situation should make it clear that conditions in Surinam precluded a 'Cuban development.'

If Holland demanded a return to democracy, Mr Naarendorp said, it should understand that a return to the situation before the military takeover was impossible.

'The imported parliamentary system promoted racism and ethnical contrasts, and stood in the way of Surinam's achievement of nationhood,' Mr Naarendorp said.

He pointed out that there had been 16 political parties in Surinam for a 100,000-strong electorate. This had resulted in broad coalition governments which were unable to take decisions.

Three Ways

Three ways open to Surinam were, according to Mr Naarendorp, a return to the old system, a military dictatorship and 'a new form of democracy.'

'The Surinamese military and civilians are taking the last option,' he said. He did not elaborate.

Earlier today Mr Naarendorp had opened a Surinamese consulate-general in Amsterdam, and during his stay in Holland he had had talks with the Dutch ministers of development cooperation, agriculture and defence.

He said he hoped a meeting of the Dutch-Surinamese development cooperation committee, which the Dutch government had postponed when the government of President Chin A Sen was toppled by the military junta at the beginning of this year, could still be held in November.

The meeting is to decide on the use of the remaining two-billion-guilder tranche of the aid Holland promised Surinam when it became independent in 1975.

Mr Naarendorp stressed that his country was seeking closer ties with a number of West European countries and was in particular exploring development cooperation possibilities.

He had talks with West German and Belgian ministers and with EEC commissioner Edgar Pisani (development cooperation) earlier this week.

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END